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Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-94-207 *26 October 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat To Ask For Clinton's Help To End Closure

NC2510144994 Paris AFP in English 1429 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 25 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat will ask US President Bill Clinton for his help in ending the Israeli closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a Palestinian official said Tuesday [25 October].

'Arafat is to meet Clinton and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo on Wednesday, at the start of Clinton's three-day Middle East tour.

"The closure of Gaza and the West Bank will be one of the two main issues" 'Arafat plans to raise, said Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the head of the Palestinian delegation to autonomy talks with Israel.

"If the Israelis want to go on to the separation of the two peoples, then okay, let's go on immediately to negotiations on the final status" of territories which are due to begin no later than 1996, 'Urayqat said.

'Arafat's second issue will be the redeployment of Israeli troops outside of Palestinian population centres on the West Bank, the reform of military regulations and the transfer of civilian powers to Palestinians there.

Under the Declaration of Principles on autonomy signed by Israel and the PLO in September 1993, the three points are to be settled before elections for a Palestinian autonomy council take place in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

So far education is the only civilian power to have been handed over to the Palestinian Authority on the West Bank.

Israel sealed off the territories last Thursday following a series of attacks claimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, which included the bombing of a bus in Tel Aviv that killed 23 people.

Some 70,000 Palestinians were thrown out of their jobs because of the closure, and the impoverished Gaza Strip stands to lose millions of dollars in wages.

The PLO demanded Israel reopen the territories during an eight- hour meeting Sunday of the liaison committee, which steers the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. The Jewish state refused.

'Urayqat also criticised Washington's position in Israeli-PLO talks, saying the US "totally sided with the Israeli side.

"They (the Americans) are not acting as a sponsor" of the peace process. "They have been following the Israelis and I hope this administration will start acting as a sponsor," he added.

'Urayqat on Clinton Visit, Gaza Closure, Jerusalem

NC2510192894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1819 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has stated that U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to the Middle East will be something more than just attending the signing ceremony of a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel, since the United States is one of the two sponsors of peace in the region.

He told reporters today that the closure of the Gaza Strip will be at the head of the issues Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will discuss with President Clinton, in addition to the PNA desire to give momentum to and step up the peace process.

'Urayqat added: If Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin wants to discuss separating Israel from the Palestinian territories under PNA control or those his troops are occupying, we welcome that. We say to Rabin: Let us begin talks immediately on this issue and on establishing a Palestinian state and giving the Palestinians self-determination.

'Urayqat continued: The continuing occupation of the West Bank and treating the Gaza Strip as if it were still under Israeli occupation is unacceptable; it runs counter to what is set out in the agreement and the Declaration of Principles signed between Israel and the PLO.

'Urayqat stressed that the issue of Jerusalem is one of sovereignty for the Palestinian side. Jerusalem is under Israeli occupation just like the West Bank and Gaza, he affirmed.

He added that in spite of the importance of the religious sites in Jerusalem, the issue will remain a sovereign one. We must discuss an Israeli withdrawal from east Jerusalem in accordance with the principle emphasized by UN Security Council Resolution 242 that deems it impermissible to occupy land by force, 'Urayqat said. He emphasized that the Palestinian inhabitants of Jerusalem must take part in voting and running for the Palestinian National Council, affirming that no Palestinian should be denied participation in the election process no matter what his political orientation might be.

Asked if Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] has requested protection from the PNA, 'Urayqat replied: The PNA is responsible for all the sons of the Palestinian people and will provide protection to all Palestinians.

He stressed that it is not acceptable to talk about one-sided violence, since Israeli violence is continuing and people are being killed daily in the occupied territories.

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He pointed out that the continuing Israeli violence will trigger Palestinian violence, affirming that the vicious circle of violence and counterviolence can only be stopped by stepping up negotiations to end the Israeli occupation and meet the just demands of the Palestinian people.

Israel, PLO Continue Talks on Self-Rule Elections

'Urayqat Comments on Talks

NC2410194294 Paris AFP in English 1747 GMT 24 Oct 94

[By Lamia Radi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 24 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO tried Monday [24 October] to bridge differences over the self-rule body to be elected by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians answered Israeli questions about proposals presented last week about how the autonomy council would be set up and work, PLO delegation chief Sa'ib 'Urayqat told AFP.

Israeli wanted clarification about "certain regulatory and legislative measures," but "Urayqat did not say what the PLO's answers were.

"We had also proposed international control over the election process which would be carried out by the United Nations," 'Urayqat added.

Palestinian negotiators want the council to be a 100-member parliament but Israel will accept no more than 30 members in what it says should amount to an administrative body.

And the PLO wants East Jerusalem residents to both vote and stand as candidates in the poll which was to have been held in July under the Declaration of Principles signed by the two sides more than a year ago.

Israel will only allow them to vote.

The Palestinians want East Jerusalem—occupied by Israel in 1967 and later declared as part of its united capital—to be the capital of a future state.

'Urayqat gave the Palestinian answers to his Israeli counterpart, General Dani Rothschild early Monday.

The meeting was then suspended "so the Israeli side could go over the document," he said, adding that Rothschild and the Israelis will "certainly consult with their administration."

'Urayqat criticized the results of Sunday's liaison committee meeting, which steers the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

"We unfortunately failed to make progress on issues which we came to settle," he said, referring to Israel's refusal to end the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed after the Tel Aviv bus bombing.

Israel sealed off the territories last Thursday following a series of attacks claimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, which included the bombing of a bus in Tel Aviv that killed 23 people.

Some 70,000 Palestinians were thrown out of their jobs because of the closure, and the impoverished Gaza Strip stands to lose millions of dollars in wages.

The Palestinians also demanded the release of some 5,000 prisoners, and that issue "was transfered to the committee of confidence-building measures which never met," 'Urayqat lamented.

But there had been "some accomplishments like the agreements on international passages, the Temporary International Presence (TIP) and the committee on the displaced," he said.

The passages agreement, which gives access to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through Egypt and Jordan respectively to facilitate the transit of people and cargo, will be implemented on October 31.

The committee also decided to invite Egypt and Jordan to participate in the committee called for by the Declaration of Principles to discuss the fate of Palestinians displaced during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The liaison committee also invited Norway, Turkey, Finland, Canada and Australia and two European states to be chosen by the European Union to take part in the TIP, to monitor the application of the autonomy.

The negotiations on the autonomy council opened here October 3. The talks resumed Monday afternoon and will end Tuesday, according to the participants.

Further on Debate Over Elections

NC2510134694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1157 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli negotiators today resumed their meetings for the second successive day in an attempt to reach an agreement on holding legislative elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to establish a Palestinian national council.

Sources close to the negotiators have reported that the Israeli delegation, led by Dani Rothschild, coordinator of the Israeli military authority in the occupied territories, is now studying the responses supplied by the Palestinian delegation during last night's session, which lasted until 2100. The responses include the Palestinian views on 37 questions pertaining to the elections and involving matters like who has the right to vote, who can run for membership of the national council, constituencies, the number of members on the council, and the

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redeployment of Israeli forces. There are differences between the two delegations over these issues and other matters.

The sources said it is unlikely that the current session, which is the fourth, will be the last one in the negotiations over the legislative elections because the discussion of the documents pertaining to the elections has not yet been completed and the two delegations have not reached an agreement.

The current session will be concluded sometime later today.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority and head of the delegation, said that the Palestinian negotiators are insisting that the Israeli Army must withdraw from the Palestinian areas before the elections and Palestinian police must be deployed in their place.

'Urayqat emphasized that the council, which is to be elected, should have both legislative and executive powers and should have 100 members, taking into account the fact that Palestinians from all factions have the right to vote or run as candidates regardless of their political affiliations.

PLO Submits Paper on Autonomy Council

NC2510180694 Paris AFP in English 1642 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 25 (AFP)—The PLO hopes to reach agreement with Israel next week on a Palestinian autonomy council to run civilian affairs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a Palestinian official said Tuesday [25 October].

"Today we submitted a complete, full paper ... which outlines and specifies in detail the council and the interaction between (its) executive and legislative authorities," said Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who heads the Palestinian delegation to autonomy talks here.

"We hope the Israeli delegation will declare next week an agreement on the concept" of the council, 'Urayqat said, adding that "it would be a big step forward."

The PLO wants a 100-member autonomy council which would function like a parliament, while Israel wants a much smaller body which is restricted to an administrative role.

Hanni Jeshuran, Israeli delegation spokeswoman, said the Israelis were "going over the Palestinian paper, and we will give our answer next week."

Jeshuran said there was "a very good atmosphere" in the talks and that negotiators were "making progress."

"We are doing it slowly and very good, because there are a lot of details," she added.

The negotiators were speaking after the final session of talks this week before a regional tour by US President Bill Clinton. The delegations are expected to meet again next Monday, 'Urayqat said.

Talks began on October 3 to arrange elections to the Palestinian self-rule council, which were originally scheduled to take place in July.

Delegates Assess Talks

NC2510191194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, local government minister in the Palestinian National Authority and head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations on elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council, expressed the hope that the Israeli and Palestinian sides will reach an agreement on this issue.

Speaking at a news conference he held here tonight following the fourth round of negotiations, Dr. 'Urayqat said that the Palestinian side today presented to the Israeli delegation what came to be known as a "working draft of the basic law for the Palestinian Council." He added that this draft explains the nature of the interrelationships and the division of authorities and responsibilities inside the council.

He said: We answered all the Israeli delegation's questions and we can reach an agreement on the concept, nature, and structure of the proposed council that will be elected.

Expressing the hope that this will be done next week, he said that if this does happen, it will be an important development. He added that the negotiations will continue next week.

Dr. 'Urayqat went on to say that the Palestinian side followed the method of explaining the Palestinian concept in full and that he is ready to give any clarifications sought by the Israeli side so as to speed up the negotiating process.

He stressed that the elections are a principal factor in the peace process. He also stressed the importance of parallel negotiations in accordance with the Palestinian side's demand for the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank, reform of the military orders applied in these territories, and the early transfer of authority to the Palestinians to finalize this stage. He added: If we achieve this we can then hold the elections this year.

Israeli delegation spokeswoman [word indistinct] Geshoron said: The Israeli side, during yesterday's session, received answers to the questions it asked in the previous round but these answers were not enough, because we want more detailed and more accurate information. She added: We do not want only answers or clarifications, but want to know the Palestinian side's concept of the entire election process. We got what we wanted today in the working draft of the basic law for the Palestinian Council. She expressed the hope that the two

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sides can start the negotiating process within the framework of the clarifications presented by the Palestinians.

The Israeli spokeswoman stressed that the general atmosphere during this round was extremely good, contrary to what it was last week when the bus explosion in Tel Aviv cast its shadow on the talks. She said the issue of the redeployment of the Israeli forces was not dealt with during these negotiations, which dealt only with issues relating to the elections.

MENA has learned that the Palestinian delegation has given a copy of the working draft to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Multilateral Environment Meetings Open in Manama

Bahraini Minister Gives Speech

JN2510134694 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 25 Oct (WAKH)—Bahraini Health Minister Jawad Salim al-'Arid this morning opened the meetings of the multilateral environment working team formed by the Madrid Middle East peace conference in October 1991.

At the beginning of the meeting, the health minister gave the inaugural speech in the name of Bahrain. He welcomed the participants and expressed happiness for hosting such conferences. He expressed hope that such meetings would promote the march of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Jawad al-'Arid said that since the recent conference in The Hague last April, the world has seen the fruits of the bilateral negotiations represented in the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The world will tomorrow witness yet another historic step on the path of peace, that is, the signing of a Jordanian- Israeli peace agreement. He said the present generations never expected such things to take place. He noted that the recent developments over the past six months have proved the strength of commitment to peace and of the hopes pinned on it.

He underlined the importance of protecting the environment and natural resources before it is too late. He said that this protection requires collective responsibility which should be shouldered by all parties.

The minister referred to the catastrophes that plagued previous generations and the damages inflicted on environment due to lack of interest in protecting it. He highlighted some important points that would help protect the environment such as scientific research, socioeconomic development, and exchange of relevant information.

Concluding his speech, he expressed the Bahraini Government's appreciation for the Middle East peace cosponsors, the United States and Russia, who exerted strenuous efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region. He also extended his thanks to the countries that hosted previous conferences in this domain, especially Japan, the Netherlands, and Egypt. [passage omitted]

Delegations from 45 states and international organizations are taking part in these meetings.

Sarid: Israel Will Not Give Up Nuclear Option

TA2510120494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpts] The government and the press in Bahrain are playing down the significance of cabinet minister Yosi Sarid's visit to the country, the first ever by an Israeli minister. A Bahraini minister meanwhile said yesterday the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel is linked to developments in the Middle East peace process. Dani Gur-Arye reports:

[Begin Gur-Arye recording] [passage omitted] An issue which threatened to derail the talks on the environment was settled yesterday with a compromise struck between Israel and the Arab states. One of them, Egypt, has raised again and again the demand for inspection of Israel's nuclear facilities. Sarid agreed yesterday to add the issue of low radiation nuclear waste as one of the topics discussed in the multilateral talks on the environment, but he said Israel does not intend to give up the nuclear option. Even political doves like myself, said Sarid, are against relinquishing the nuclear option as long as some countries in the region refuse to make peace with Israel. [end recording]

Sarid: Ties 'Just a Matter of Time'

TA2510180194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the first-ever visit of its kind, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid met in Manama today with Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak al-Khalifah. Sarid, who was attending multilateral talks on the environment also met with the entire Jewish community of Bahrain, a total of four families comprising 20 people.

[Begin recording] [Sarid] The atmosphere was very, very positive, very friendly. I found the people of Bahrain and the high officials very cooperative, very nice persons. We found no difficulties to communicate very easily, very openly.

Well, we discussed the status of the negotiations concerning the peace process. We talked about the peace agreement with Jordan, which is going to be signed tomorrow. We talked about the negotiations with Syria, the negotiations with the Palestinians—well, the whole picture of the political situation in the region. The Bahrainis and we are an integral part of this region and, naturally, we are very much interested in what's happening here. In the last weeks, months, the developments

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are very dramatic, and sometimes it's very difficult to follow very closely, so I gave the foreign minister of Bahrain a full report about the picture as we can see it.

[Correspondent Amy Rhodes] Do you believe that Bahrain will follow Morocco's and Tunisia's lead and establish low-level diplomatic ties with Israel in the near future?

[Sarid] Well, my tendency is to use the definition which has been said by the foreign minister of Bahrain himself. He said that it's a new beginning, and it is a new beginning undoubtedly. This is the first step. Another steps, additional steps will follow sooner or later. It's a matter of time. He emphasized this point very heavily. It's just a matter of time. [end recording]

'Source': Israel, Jordan To Cooperate Against Terror

TA2510115894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Oct 94 p 9

[Report by Gabi Brunn, David Regev, and Tzvi Zinger]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel and Jordan have decided to cooperate in curbing extreme Islamic organizations that support terrorism. The cooperation will include an exchange of ongoing intelligence information and parallel operations by theb security bodies of the two countries.

The decision was made during the recent summit meeting Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held with King Husayn in Amman some 10 days ago [on 15 October]. The meeting was held in the shadow of the abduction of the late Nahshon Wachsman. The issue was raised in an informal meeting Husayn and Rabin held at the close of the official working session.

Briefing the coalition meeting on the peace accord with Jordan yesterday, the prime minister hinted that the nocturnal meeting was important, but refused to elaborate on the issues discussed in it. "That night, the Israeli and Jordanian delegations held a candid conversation which lasted until 0230," Rabin said. "In it, each party raised difficulties and problems stemming from the peace agreement. I will not elaborate further. Things will become clear in time."

A senior government source last night confirmed the report about the cooperation "which stems from the realization that terror equally threatens Israel and Jordan." [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Palestine' Asks Jordan To Delete Jerusalem Article

NC2210161794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Ambassador Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent representative to the Arab League, has stated that Palestine has asked Jordan to delete Article 9 of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty before it is finally ratified. In a statement to MENA, Subayh said he submitted an official memorandum to this effect on 20 October to 'Adnan ' 'Amran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political affairs. The memorandum explains that Article 9 of the treaty, which gives Jordan jurisdiction over the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem, conflicts with all UN and UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions on Jerusalem. It also conflicts with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles [DOP] signed in Washington in September 1993. Subayh noted that the DOP stipulates that the status of Jerusalem will be decided in the final phase of the Palestinian- Israeli negotiations.

Subayh said the involvement of the issue of Jerusalem in the Jordanian-Israeli treaty is fragmenting the Arab stand on this issue. Israel aims to foment a dispute between Palestine and Jordan over Jerusalem and to fragment the Arab stand on this issue. He added that in its memorandum to the Arab League, Palestine has asked Jordan to omit Article 9 of the treaty in order to maintain the unity of the Arab stand and safeguard Palestine's right to sovereignty over the land and people in Jerusalem and so as not to leave openings which Israel can use to avoid withdrawing from the city in accordance with UNSC Resolution 242 and all other UNSC and UN resolutions which stipulate that Jerusalem is part of the territories occupied in 1967, from which Israel must withdraw.

Subayh said Palestine has asked that its memorandum be circulated among the Arab states so they will embark on a joint effort to clarify to the Jordanian Government the gravity of the inclusion of this article in the treaty.

He said the State of Palestine has also contacted the Jordanian Government to explain its stand on Jerusalem and the need for this issue not to be included as a separate item in the treaty.

Egypt's Musa on Israel-PLO Talks on Elections

MS2210091394 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 22 Oct 94 p 11

[Report on interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Muhammad Musa by Richard Dowden in London on 21 October]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Egypt yesterday urged Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to forge ahead with elections in the West Bank and Gaza.

"The elections must take place immediately," 'Amr Muhammad Musa, Egypt's Foreign Minister, said in an interview in London yesterday. Anxious to condemn terrorism on all sides, he added: "Actions by Hamas or settlers or Hizbollah must not be allowed to derail the peace process."

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He urged the international community to support Yasir 'Arafat. "Arafat is in a difficult position and its incumbent on us to help him."

"We need to help him show the Palestinian public in Gaza and the West Bank that things have changed in favour of the Palestinian family. He needs support."

Under the agreement signed in Cairo on 4 May, elections should have been held in Gaza and the West Bank in July, but they were postponed until this month. There is still no sign of a date.

"The election is not an option, it is a step, a link between the first stage and the second stage of the process. Without them they can't move towards autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza," Mr Musa said.

He added Mr 'Arafat was convinced he would beat his rivals in an election, but if Hamas did well, that would only strengthen the peace process by involving everybody. "It is better to keep them in rather than keep them out," Mr Musa said.

Clinton Mideast Tour Eyed; Balanced Approach Urged

MM2510110594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Oct 94 p 9

[Article by Amir Taheri: "The Middle East and the Clinton Doctrine"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Only as a friend of both sides can the United States positively contribute to the making of peace and prosperity in the region.

Although for every world political event there are usually those who claim the credit, it frequently so happens that events generate themselves, such as, for instance, President Bill Clinton's visit to the Middle East.

Until just two weeks ago there was no mention of Clinton's coming to the region despite the fact that some invitations had already been issued and specific dates set. Clinton won the presidency on the promise that he would concentrate on the economy like a "laser beam," which meant relegating foreign issues to the back burner.

When it came to dealing with the outside world, the Middle East did not appear on the Clinton administration's list of priorities. Attention was instead focused on the Pacific Basin where the United States hopes to get the lion's share of the fastest growing world market.

There were other priorities in the Western Hemisphere, where the creation of a North American free trade zone constituted the first step toward a common market on the American Continent.

In the past few weeks the Middle East has forced itself to the top of Clinton's agenda. Iraq again demonstrated its ability to make trouble; Iran is going through a new phase of revolutionary nightmare; and the Palestinian question has once again proved its ability to provoke emotions and violence. At the same time, there has been an irresistible drive toward peace which, if sustained, could lead to the crystallization of the "region of peace and cooperation" which Clinton clearly intends to discuss during his tour of the region.

Clinton's visit clearly lacks good planning. It was arranged hastily in a "do-it-yourself manner" in a matter of two or three days. Originally, the visit was supposed to be confined to symbolic attendance at the signing of the new Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Then it became clear that Clinton cannot come all the way to the Middle East without saying "Hello" to the Marines in Kuwait, and no sooner would he set foot in Kuwait than it would become impossible for him not to expand his tour to cover other important meetings.

As a result, the symbolic lightning visit to a region Clinton hardly knows has developed into a political mission of extremely important strategic dimensions. This will in fact be the widest-ranging visit by a U.S. president to the Middle East since Nixon's 1974 visit.

The aim then was to confirm the "Nixon doctrine" on regional alliances during the cold war. Are we about to see the launching of a "Clinton doctrine" on peace and economic cooperation as the best guarantee for the region's stability and prosperity?

It is quite clear that the main value of the visit is smybolic at this time. Therefore, every move Clinton makes, every word he utters, every handshake, and every place he sets foot in will be closely scrutinized by everyone.

It is not clear yet whether Clinton will, as he said, visit the holy places in Jerusalem, almost all of which are in the occupied part of the city.

Several Clinton advisers have urged him to avoid that. The holy city's future will be discussed after 1996 and its final status will not be determined before then.

During his election campaign Clinton promised to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Once he was in the White House, he wisely decided not to commit the United States to an arbitrary unilateral position that would do the United States more harm than good.

Only as friend of both sides can the United States play a positive role that would enable the Middle East to achieve the peace and prosperity its peoples long for.

Clinton Seen Hoping To Boost Rating With Tour

MM2610102894 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Oct 94 p24

[Editorial: "Clinton Is Betting on Arab Generosity"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] U.S. President Bill Clinton leaves for the Arab region within the next two days to attend the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty and to

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show solidarity with and reassure some Gulf states opposed to Iraq after the recent Iraqi military movements near the Kuwaiti borders.

Noticeably, the U.S. President is visiting the region while he is at his weakest because of his falling popularity and the failure of most of his domestic policies, especially his economic policies. He hopes to score a foreign policy success on this tour to strengthen his position and the position of his Democratic Party before the legislative elections due to begin in mid-November.

In other words, Clinton, who reached the White House on the strength of his criticism of his opponent George Bush's concentration on foreign policies at the expense of domestic policies, has himself now fallen into that same pit and now finds no better region than the Middle East for an easy achievement to take back to his electorate, who have begun to lose confidence in him and the party he represents.

The truth is that Clinton made a good choice because the Arab region is almost the only region where the [U.S.] foreign policy has scored major successes. [passage omitted]

The Arabs welcome any U.S. intervention. We now see Kuwait paying in full the expenses incurred by the U.S. forces on its territory and planning to impose new taxes on its citizens and residents as a contribution toward the payment of these expenses. And we see Jordan signing a complete peace treaty with Israel under which it leases a part of its territory to free itself for the battle with the Palestinians over sovereignty over Jerusalem despite the fact Jerusalem has not been liberated and Arab sovereignty is nowhere near it.

We do not believe that President Clinton would have agreed to go to Damascus and meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during this tour if he was not almost sure of his ability to get concessions that would bring closer the date of a Syrian-Israeli agreement similar to the Jordanian-Israeli agreement. Syria always wanted a U.S. recognition of its regional role. After 20 years of U.S. boycott and after the United States added Syria to the list of states sponsoring terrorism, Clinton's visit now gives Syria that recognition.

President Clinton timed his visit well. His bet on Arab generosity will certainly pay off especially in terrified Kuwait and also in Riyadh which is coming under increasing external and internal pressures. As regards Damascus, it is historically known for its bargaining skill and ability to get the best possible deal.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 18 Oct

NC2510164394

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 18 October edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Brother of Jerusalem Bus Incident Martyr Being Tortured

2. Labor Party Members Meet Sudan's al-Bashir, Discuss

Relations

3. Labor Party Statement Condemns Attack on Najib Mahfuz

4. Citizens Concerned About Mallawi Conditions After Clashes

5. Al-Hudaybi Praises al-Sadat, Condemns Saddam for Move on

Kuwait

6. Conference on Public Freedom in Islam Issues Statement

7. Islamic Writers Rule Out Islamist Involvement in Attack on

Mahjub

8. Al-Ghazali Criticizes Western Views on Population Control

9. Court Case Filed To Stop Screening of Film on Immigrant

BROTHER OF JERUSALEM BUS INCIDENT MARTYR BEING TORTURED

'Ali al-Qammash, in a 140-word report on page 1, says: "The State Security Investigations are continuing their ugly torture of Usamah al-Jawhari, the brother of martyr 'Isam al-Jawhari, who died in a fedayeen operation in Jerusalem recently, to determine the extent of the Hamas membership." Al-Qammash says Usamah claimed to have received a phone call from "Palestine" informing him that his brother had died and that his wish had been to be buried next to his mother's grave. Usamah was arrested together with his "bearded and religious friend Muhammad Kamal." Usamah's family has been appealing to every human rights organization to defend him, because, he says, he is being tortured for no reason.

LABOR PARTY MEMBERS MEET SUDAN'S AL-BASHIR, DISCUSS RELATIONS

Again on page 1, a 500-word unattributed report, which is continued on page 7, says that Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir, on Thursday 13 October, received the Labor Party delegation of 'Adil Husayn, Salah 'Abd-al-Mit'al, and Jamal As'ad, who were attending the conference on dialogue among religions in Khartoum. Discussion during the meeting focussed on Egyptian-Sudanese governmental relations. Al-Bashir is cited as saying: "The recent meeting between the two foreign ministers made no progress." He states: Sudan heard "sweet but general words about the importance of

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improving relations but we heard no specific talk about the occupation of Hala'ib or the reason for Egyptian authorities sheltering the Sudanese opposition." He accuses the Egyptian authorities of opening an office for the southern Sudan rebel movement. Al-Bashir accuses Egyptian Government media of misrepresenting events. He says: If the two countries cooperate, their combined resources would be huge and would yield many results.

LABOR PARTY STATEMENT CONDEMNS ATTACK ON NAJIB MAHFUZ

Page 1 also features the 150-word "text" of a Labor Party statement condemning the attempted murder of prominent writer Najib Mahfuz. The statement maintains that this act "is not only an attack on a person's soul, which God has forbidden except when it is just, but an attack on the freedom of speech and writing that Najib Mahfuz has always defended." The statement wishes him a speedy recovery. A 20-word report inset on the same page notes that Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri visited Najib Mahfuz in the hospital.

CITIZENS CONCERNED ABOUT MALLAWI CONDITIONS AFTER CLASHES

Page 3 carries a 3,000-word report by Qutb al-'Arabi and 'Adil al-Bahnasawi on the recent clashes between terrorists and security forces in Mallawi. Residents of the town fear that it will become another Dayrut with security cordons, checkpoints, army deployment, etc. Citizens are suffering a great deal, the report maintains, because of the security measures and searches in the town. Many leaders and members of the Islamic Group have fled the area and security men are trying to track them down. But, the report goes on, they should not harass normal citizens. Interviews with the People's Assembly member for Mallawi and the mayor are cited, both of whom claim that Mallawi cannot become as bad as Dayrut, because of its ancient historic background. The head of the security department in the town says: "There are some defendants who should be arrested and who are now trying to destroy stability in this town." The report concludes by asking when peace will return to Mallawi.

AL-HUDAYBI PRAISES AL-SADAT, CONDEMNS SADDAM FOR MOVE ON KUWAIT

Counselor Muhammad al-Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, official spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood, writes a 2,500-word column on page 5 entitled "The Great Verse: The 10 Ramadan—6 October—Victory." Al-Hudaybi discusses the October War victory scored by Egypt and Syria against Israel. He praises the performance of the Egyptian army during the war against Israel despite the great differences in the capacities of the two armies. He notes: "We disagreed with former President Anwar al-Sadat and attacked him strongly. We still disapprove of his trip to Jerusalem and peace with the enemy, which has usurped the land of Palestine, as well as the results we see emerging from that peace now. But no one can deny al-Sadat's courage, firm will, and good preparation of the state and the army, as well as his good choice of qualified and brave men, who planned, studied, and improved equipment, tactics, and strategy. Thus he made a historic decision and the victory was realized, as was the crossing." Al-Hudaybi salutes the Egyptian army on this occasion. He says their final inspiration and resort is God.

Al-Hudaybi discusses "the strange and confusing behavior of a leader of an important part of the Arab and Islamic nation, the dear Iraqi people's leader, who continues to import for them the sources of their death." He condemns Saddam's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and claims that the Islamic and Arab nation are now suffering the consequences of that move. With his move, Saddam gave the Zionist enemy a lofty podium from which to make everyone hear it. Al- Hudaybi asked why Saddam pushed his troops toward Kuwait: "What was the motive and what was the benefit? There is no reason other than that he gave the enemies of the Arab nation and Islam the reason for greater colonial control and more arrogance over us, our people, potential, and resources to give the Zionist entity greater power, belligerence, influence, and control." He concludes by asking whether the leaders of the Arab nation will one day return to God's rule so that they retrieve their dignity and honor.

CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC FREEDOM IN ISLAM ISSUES STATEMENT

Page 7 features a 3,000-word report by Khalid Yunus on the meetings of the conference for "Public Freedom and the Secular Society" organized by the committee coordinating activities among the professional unions. Four sessions were held with distinct topics and papers of discussion for each session. The first session focussed on public freedoms, the second on union freedoms, the third on personal freedoms, and the fourth on general freedoms with regard to Islamic principles. In the last, Shaykh Ahmad al-Ghazali presented a paper on Islam and freedom for women. Some of the points in the final statement of the conference "condemned the continuing siege of the Iraqi people and their suffering," "French policy, which has recently been characterized by its hostility to the Islamic movement," and the attack on Najib Mahfuz. The conference recommended that prisons be placed under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary. Regarding freedom and the principles of Islam, "the conference affirmed that Islam approves party pluralism and transfer of power through peaceful means. Islam does not restrain the freedom of public opinion as long as it does not violate its principles." The conference also noted that consultation in Islam is a "true Islamic principle that should not be abandoned and that men and women are equal in assuming power, with the exception of the position of caliph." The report concludes by stressing that public freedom is the right of women and men alike.

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ISLAMIC WRITERS RULE OUT ISLAMIST INVOLVEMENT IN ATTACK ON MAHJUB

On page 9 a 1,500-word report by Huda Makkawi looks at various condemnations of the attack on Najib Mahfuz by Islamic writers and figures, most notably Fahmi Huwaydi. Huwaydi is quoted saying: "What happened to Najib Mahfuz is an ugly crime that no person belonging to any intellectual current can accept." He expresses his belief that the Islamic arena is innocent of attempts to kill him. He maintains that the Islamic current harbors no hostility toward Mahfuz. Mahfuz, he says, did not attack Islam in his writings about terrorism and violence, but analyzed this phenomenon in a positive way. In light of this argument, he asks what motives would drive an Islamist to want to kill Mahfuz. "I expect that this crime has more to do with the tasteless flurry of normalization [with Israel], which has been taking place recently." He says he believes that Najib Mahfuz' seminar was used as a forum to discuss cultural infiltration and that some sides attempted to turn this seminar into a symbol of this normalization, adding: "I fear that Najib Mahfuz was the victim of the tasteless handling of this normalization." The other writers maintain that Mahfuz is not an anti-Islamic writer and say they see no motive for the Islamists to attack him. They also condemn this kind of violence against intellectuals.

AL-GHAZALI CRITICIZES WESTERN VIEWS ON POPULATION CONTROL

In his 500-word "This is Our Religion" column on page 12, Muhammad al-Ghazali condemns those who call for population control, because he maintains that God provides and takes away as he deems necessary. He says he believes God will provide for the increasing population as he has since time immemorial. He criticizes elements among the Egyptians, saying they blindly subscribe to Western views and ignore the true values of Islam. He denounces Winston Churchill as a person "who lived and died without once thinking of God." He also criticizes Prince Philip, saying he holds the same belief as Churchill, what he calls an anti-Christian belief.

COURT CASE FILED TO STOP SCREENING OF FILM ON IMMIGRANT

A 150-word report on page 1 notes that lawyer Mahmud Abu-al-Fayd has resorted to the courts to stop the screening of a new film by director Yusuf Shahin, al-Muhajir [The Immigrant], the distribution of its tapes, and export of the film. The objection lies in the film strongly profaning the prophets and calling for normalizing relations with the Israelis. It also degrades the Egyptians by depicting them as "incompetent capitulationists." The al-Azhar shaykh is urged to interfere and stop the film reaching the screen.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 21 Oct

NC2510202894

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 21 October edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islam issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Jordanian-Israeli Treaty Criticized
2. Courts Rule on Veil in Schools
3. Casablanca Summit Said To Serve Greater Israel
4. Rising Violence in Mallawi Reviewed
5. Al-Azhar Students Demonstrate
6. Tunisian Islamist Protests Government's Measures
7. Health of Imam Deteriorating
8. France's Hostility Toward Muslims Viewed

JORDANIAN-ISRAELI TREATY CRITICIZED

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty to be signed on 26 October is reviewed in an approximately 1,500-word report by Fatimah al-Zahra' Muhammad on pages 1 and 7. The report examines the main points of the treaty, highlighting the part that says that Israel will lease two fields used by Israeli farmers for 25 years. The report cites Syrian President al-Asad's description of the lease precedent as "blasphemy" and reviews Jordanian Islamic parties' opposition to the treaty. It cites a statement by the Jordanian Islamic Action Front vowing to "resist" the agreement with all its might, as it will "bring humiliation and shame on the nation." A statement by the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood cited in the report says the agreement provides "backing for the Zionist terrorist policy in Palestine and the policy of expansion toward establishing Greater Israel." The Brotherhood's statement promises to maintain its firm position rejecting all types of capitulation and resisting all forms of normalization and Judaization.

COURTS RULE ON VEIL IN SCHOOLS

The Administrative Judicial Court issued a ruling on 18 October suspending and revoking a decision by the Ministry of Education's under secretary in al-Jizah to ban elementary schoolgirls from wearing the veil, writes Khalid Yunis in an approximately 300-word report on pages 1 and 7.

A related report by 'Ali al-Qammash on page 2 notes that in defiance of the Judiciary, the minister of education has given new and strict instructions to headmasters and headmistresses to remove schoolgirls' headscarves. The approximately 1,500-word report notes that the minister's instructions, contained in a circular a photocopy of which is published above the report, follows a ruling by

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the Administrative Judicial Court on 18 October overruling the minister's decision to prevent students wearing the al-niqab, or face cover, from entering schools. The report adds that two girls have been dismissed from an elementary school in al-Jizah for wearing the veil. When their father complained, he was told by the ministry's officials to remove his daughters' veils or find them a tutor at home. The father is quoted as saying: "I am a simple Muslim who belongs to no group or party. I only observe the instructions of my religion ordered by God Almighty, foremost among which is to provide my children with a sound Islamic upbringing."

CASABLANCA SUMMIT SAID TO SERVE GREATER ISRAEL

'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im, in an approximately 1,000-word article on page 3, views the economic summit due to open in Casablanca on 30 October. He notes that what he calls a suspicious conference, to be held under the auspices of King Hassan II, U.S. President Clinton, and Russian President Yeltsin, will "put the final touches to declaring the Greater Israeli state." He notes that although some see the conference as a forum to promote economic development in the Middle East, its real purpose is to enable Israel to "impose its economic hegemony on the region and to lead the region singlehandedly after replacing the Arab League and the small Arab blocs with a Middle East market." Among the projects that Israel will propose to the conference, he adds, is one to dig a canal between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea for generating electricity. This project, he adds, would deal a fatal blow to the Suez Canal and change navigation traffic for Israel. 'Abd-al-Mun'im writes: Despite the ambiguity of the official Egyptian position on participating in the conference, some Egyptian businessmen, "who threw themselves into the lap of the Jews, are rushing to attend the conference and trying to push all the State's agencies to enter this dark tunnel, without considering the danger of the conference, which serves Israel only at the expense of the Arab states and seeks to establish the Greater Israel."

RISING VIOLENCE IN MALLAWI REVIEWED

An approximately 3,000-word report by Ahmad Mahjub on page 5 views the rising acts of violence in the city of Mallawi, al-Minya Governorate, as part of the security clampdown on Islamic Group members. He notes that the sugar cane plantations, where the group members take shelter, have turned into a battleground where scores of policemen, group members, and ordinary citizens are killed or wounded in the crossfire. The writer provides a list of security incidents dating back to January 1994 as part of the government's campaign to arrest Islamic Group activists. As part of the campaign, relatives of people wanted for arrest are detained and "held as hostages," the writer says. He quotes Samiyah al-Burayqi, a lawyer with the Egyptian Human Rights Organization in Mallawi, saying that the "holding of hostages involves the elderly, women, and several members of a family at the same time and for long periods." According to 'Abd-al-Rahman Lutfi, secretary of the Labor Party in Mallawi, the rising violence is due to the brutal security measures against defendants, their families, and even ordinary citizens. He notes that security men "fabricate charges against them and blame them for all unresolved crimes that take place. Thus accusations accumulate against them, making execution their only fate," he adds.

AL-AZHAR STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE

An approximately 150-word report on page 7 notes that al-Azhar University students demonstrated on 13-15 October to protest the removal of Islamist students from the list of candidates running for student elections. Students staying at the university dormitory also demonstrated to protest the dismissal of several students, the ban on observing prayers in the dormitory, and the refusal of the administration to permit students who fast on Mondays and Thursdays to take their food to their rooms to eat when their fasting ends.

TUNISIAN ISLAMIST PROTESTS GOVERNMENT'S MEASURES

An approximately 400-word statement by Rached Ghannouchi, leader of the Tunisian Ennahda Movement, is published on page 8. In the statement, Ghannouchi claims that the "persecution" of his movement in Tunisia at the hands of the Tunisian "ruling clique" has forced many members to leave the country and escape the state's "torture machine." But, he adds, the Tunisian security men chase these members wherever they go and seek their arrest on false charges. One leading member of the movement, al-Tahir Bu-Bahri, who holds a UN travel document and has been given political asylum in France, has been arrested by the Austrian police on charges that he is wanted by Interpol. The Tunisian Government sent a high-level security delegation to Austria to pressure it to hand him over to the Tunisian Government, he adds, noting that the signs are that a deal will be made between the two governments under which Bu-Bahri will be handed over to Tunisia. Ghannouchi notes that Bu-Bahri was sentenced in absentia to life by a Tunisian military court in September 1992. He adds: "Since torture has become a routine practice in Tunisian security centers, something that has led to the death of scores of our brothers, we fear that brother Bu-Bahri will meet the same fate if he is handed over to the Tunisian police." Ghannouchi concludes by urging organizations and individuals to put pressure on the Austrian Government to prevent the extradition.

HEALTH OF IMAM DETERIORATING

An approximately 150-word report by Mu'tazz al-Hadidi on page 7 notes that the health of Shaykh Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Azim, imam of the al-Maraghi Mosque in

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Hulwan and the well-known Islamic preacher, is deteriorating because of his continuing detention. The report notes that the imam was arrested on 19 August after delivering his Friday sermon. The prosecutors charged him with joining an unlawful group, possessing leaflets, and writing a book named "Why We Despise Jews."

FRANCE'S HOSTILITY TOWARD MUSLIMS VIEWED

An approximately 600-word article by Kamal Habib on page 8 notes that students demonstrated in Lyons last week to defend the right of Muslim girls to wear the veil in school. The writer notes that while the Muslims in France number approximately 6 million, they are discriminated against, persecuted, and treated unequally. This leads him to believe, he says, that "France's secularism harbors deep racist feelings toward Muslims in particular, since it seems hostile and violent toward Islam but tolerant and reconciliatory toward Jews, Protestants, and other Europeans." He notes in this regard that Jewish students are permitted to wear the skullcap in school, but Muslims are not allowed to wear Islamic dress.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Speaks on Jerusalem, Israeli Closure

JN2510185694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Oct 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in the Gaza Strip on 25 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO and head of the National Authority, has said that Jerusalem is not a merchandise to be bought or sold. He asserted that Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state, whether or not people like it.

This came in a speech delivered at a ceremony held by the al-Azhar University Students Council in Gaza today at the beginning of the new scholastic year. President 'Arafat added that it should be clear to the one who thought, or tried at a certain moment, to tamper here and there or offer merchandise to an enemy, friend, or ally that Jerusalem is not on the market to be bought or sold.

President 'Arafat said that there are attempts in the international equation to subdue and starve the Palestinian people. He asserted that the people would not kneel. Referring to the Israeli closure, he addressed Israeli Prime Minister Rabin saying that the roadblock he has erected will not subdue the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. He added: O people, I rely on God and you.

Addressing the male and female students, 'Arafat said: You are the vigor of the revolution and the homeland, and through you I can defy the whole world. He also pointed to the difficult phase which he called the phase of greater jihad.

President 'Arafat called for national unity to confront the difficulties and obstacles. He urged the students to gain more knowledge as part of the battle of defiance, and called on the university's president and administration to quickly construct the remaining buildings in order to accommodate 9,000 students. He urged the students to rise to the level of responsibility, especially since we are facing a historic turning point represented by building the homeland which has been watered by the blood of martyrs and wounded, and also by the detainees' suffering.

Regarding the detainee issue, President 'Arafat said the Israelis bargained over this important issue by releasing only the Fatah and PLO detainees. He stressed his rejection of any bargaining over the detainees. He added: I do not bargain over my brother Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. 'Arafat said the march is long and difficult but is moving confidently with strong and firm steps.

He pledged to the martyrs, led by martyr Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] to proceed until the Palestinian flag is hoisted on the minarets, walls, and churches of Jerusalem.

In another development, President 'Arafat sponsored a ceremony to distribute good performance certificats to participants in a training course dealing with administrative development and institutional building of Arab national societies. The ceremony was held in the Rashad al-Shawwa Cultural Center this morning. Social Affairs Minister Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir] accompanied President 'Arafat.

Al-Husayni Comments on Clinton's Jerusalem Visit

JN2510164694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1524 GMT 25 Oct 94

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks and PA official in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio, by Jawad Abu-Shaykhah, "a short while ago"; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Shaykhah] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference and official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the PA [Palestinian Authority], good evening.

[Al-Husayni] Good evening to you.

[Abu-Shaykhah] What do you have to say to the report that Clinton intends to visit the old city of Jerusalem on Thursday and that he refused to be accompanied by, or to meet with any Palestinian official during his visit to

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the holy city. Do you view this as a U.S. recognition of the Israeli stand that Jerusalem is the unified capital of Israel?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, with respect to his visit to the old city and East Jerusalem, President Clinton can do this through his meeting with the Palestinian officials and by having the visit take place in isolation of the Israeli officials. The Christian and Muslim shrines are in an Arab area. No one can enter this area without coordination with the Palestinians. As is the custom, any guest in that area will be the guest of the Palestinians and not the Israelis. Therefore, this issue is still being discussed. When we directly hear from them something different, then we will comment and state our stand.

[Abu-Shaykhah] But, brother Abu-al-'Abd, so far you have not received any invitation to accompany Clinton during his tour of the holy city?

[Al-Husayni] If Clinton wishes to come, he does not invite us to accompany him. We are the owners of this land who organize this visit. He simply has to tell us he wants to visit, and we will organize the visit. No one can tell us who will accompany him.

[Abu-Shaykhah] Brother Abu-al-'Abd, the Israeli occupation authorities have imposed a security cordon on all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. What do you have to say to this?

[Al-Husayni] The Israelis have repeatedly besieged Jerusalem. Every time, they resort to new excuses. However, this only shows that Israel in practice is not capable of controlling security and running the affairs in these territories. Thus, it is not qualified to continue assuming this responsibility in Jerusalem or elsewhere.

[Abu-Shaykhah] A last question, Mr. Faysal: Can the Orient House employees go in and out of Jerusalem freely. Are the Israelis harassing them?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, all those who do not have Jerusalem identity cards face the same problems that all the other Palestinians face.

[Abu-Shaykhah] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, thank you.

Clinton Urged Not To Depart From Jerusalem Policy

TA2510142494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, 'Arafat's adviser, says he hopes President Clinton will not include Mayor Ehud Olmert in his tour of East Jerusalem as that would hurt the feelings of the Palestinian residents of the city and constitute a departure from the traditional U.S. policy which recognizes East Jerusalem as part of the territories occupied in 1967.

Al-Tibi told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Clinton will be welcome at East Jerusalem's holy sites if he comes escorted by a Muslim cleric or a senior Palestinian figure.

Authority Reportedly Ready for Talks on Jerusalem

TA2510163894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 Oct 94 pp 1, 22

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramallah—Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has stressed that the Palestinian National Authority is fully prepared to enter into the final stage talks with the aim of establishing a Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

In response to the voices calling for separation between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, Abu-Rudaynah said this requires the immediate entry, without hesitation, into the final stage talks and that the National Authority is ready for that.

On the meaning of separation for the Palestinians, Abu-Rudaynah said that separation should be based on recognition of our political state borders, which comprise the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, because it is an indivisible part of the territories and the capital of the future Palestinian state.

For his part, Marwan al-Barghuthi, secretary of the Supreme Fatah Strategy Committee, said the Palestinians believe, first and foremost, that the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including Jerusalem, are the territories of the future Palestinian state. Moreover, the Oslo accord affirmed Palestinian geographic jurisdiction, which means that the territories occupied in 1967 constitute one whole geographic jurisdiction and are subject to the same laws and will be subject to the same authority.

Al-Barghuthi pointed out that there is no alternative to ending the occupation, for which Rabin is using the term separation. In order to have a practical and just coexistence with the Palestinians, the Israelis cannot but recognize the political boundaries of our future state, which includes Jerusalem, the capital of the state, and which is part of the geographic jurisdiction of the territories occupied in 1967, and which is inhabited by at least 200,000 Palestinians.

'Comprehensive Strike' Staged in Protest of Treaty

JN2610093294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The occupied Palestinian areas, including Jerusalem, are now witnessing a comprehensive strike in protest against the signing today of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty at Wadi al-'Arabah. The strike was called by four factions: Fatah, Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

It is worth mentioning that the treaty includes an article giving Jordan a special role in supervising the religious places in Jerusalem.

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VOP Vows 'Construction' Despite 'Obstacles'

JN2610095194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Oct 94

["Political commentary" by Voice of Palestine chief editor Yusuf al-Qazzaz]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the heat of negotiations and at the beginning of the battles of construction over what has been liberated of this homeland, there are those who plan, work, and implement attempts to destroy our dreams and place obstacles and impediments in front of our march, the march of peace and freedom. Some are doing this in cooperation with the Israeli occupation and some are working to tarnish our democratic image by inventing a problem here or an event there because they want to revive the past and freeze the present by preventing it from moving toward the future. Our Palestinian people who rejected and are still rejecting the Israeli occupation, refuse to return to the past, refuse backwardness and retrogression.

As we said, and as we always say, our voice, political movement, democratic practice, and concept will not be confined to a narrow identity. The tree of Palestinian democracy will not blind us to what is going on in the dark forest, which imports its ideas from abroad, seeks the protection of the black shades, and implements its sabotage programs, which will never divert us from continuing what we have chosen and what the majority of our Palestinian people have chosen, here on the land of the people, and there in the diaspora that extends near and far.

While contributing to obstructing the peace process which is required not only by us, the Palestinians, but also by the Israelis who are in dire need of it, the closure by Israel of our National Authority in Gaza and Jericho and the Israeli closure of our people's areas in the West Bank, is not justified except to say that the occupation is joining hands with some of the pariahs who fear peace and those who are lying in wait for every Palestinian step toward realizing the great Palestinian national achievement; namely, national independence and the establishment of the Palestinian people's state which must be established regardless of the difficulties, challenges, and obstacles, be they from the occupation or from those who are under its umbrella, even if they brandish their weapons under the protection of this occupation and boast of struggle while in fact not knowing the meaning of struggle.

Our Palestinian people will continue to hold to the difficult task of construction, seeking further areas of freedom. We will not be a besieged island or an archipelago. Despite the tragedies of flights, setbacks, sieges, and massacres, every Palestinian man and woman has decided that we will live in dignity and release ourselves, our minds, and our country from the black winds of obscurantism and backwardness which fear any light or bright spot at the end of the dark channel which our Palestinian people have been living since their first flight and until now.

We will meet again on the road of hope with the Voice of Palestine.

Security Official on Jericho 'Shooting' Incident

JN2310195394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Oct 94

[Interview with Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, official in charge of preventive security in Jericho, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mu'addi] Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, official in charge of preventive security in the Jericho area: What are the results of the investigation into the shooting at a tourist bus near the al-'Awja' area in Jericho last night?

[Al-Rujub] First, there was no shooting. Apparently, a stray bullet fired from a wedding party near road no. 90 hit the bus. In fact, the Israeli reaction reflects a mentality which is absolutely impossible to live with. Sealing Jericho gives the impression that we are living in a jail, with the Israelis closing or opening it as they please.

This [sealing] is unacceptable and rejected. It also conflicts with the future common interest of both parties.

[Mu'addi] Has the person who opened fire been identified?

[Al-Rujub] Naturally, we do not have to submit a report to anyone on this matter. We have licensed weapons, our forces carry arms, and anyone could accidentally fire a bullet on road no. 90 or anywhere else. We do not need to receive permission. This is a procedural matter that concerns the Palestinian side.

[Mu'addi] But, Col. Jibril al-Rujub, such incidents will affect tourism in the Jericho area. You are in charge there...

[Al-Rujub, interrupting] This is not true, because such things can happen anywhere in the world and in all world armies. So a bullet was accidentally fired here and there. So what? Has history stopped? When Israel was here, were there not such incidents? What kind of talk is this?

[Mu'addi] What are the lessons learned from this incident?

[Al-Rujub] The question is whether to permit people to shoot or not. We will work out a set of objective restrictions to control these matters.

[Mu'addi] Col. Jibril al-Rujub: Thank you very much.

[Al-Rujub] Goodbye.

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Hamas Offers Accord Against Harming Civilians

TA2510114994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Oct 94 p A4

[Interview with Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Gaza Hamas leader, by Yosef Elgazi, at al-Zahhar's house in Gaza on 24 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Elgazi] What do you think about the foreign media reports that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has ordered the security services to "hunt down and eliminate" Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders who are responsible for the recent wave of terror attacks against Israel?

[Al-Zahhar] If Rabin thinks that the elimination of several Hamas leaders will provide Israel and the Israelis with security, let him do as he sees fit. The trouble is that Rabin does not learn from his own experience and repeats past mistakes. In 1993, after the abduction and killing of policeman Toledano, Rabin ordered that 400 men be deported and hundreds placed under administrative detention. Did he eliminate Hamas and solved Israel's security problems through this? Absolutely not.

[Elgazi] Have Hamas officials in the West Bank and Jerusalem been arrested over the past several days?

[Al-Zahhar] It is not inevitable that the Israeli authorities will act on their threats to carry out a wave of mass detentions, deportations, and house demolitions after the U.S. President leaves the area, after the great festival of signing the Rabin-King Husayn agreement ends.

[Elgazi] What is your solution?

[Al-Zahhar] There are many solutions. One of them is holding a real dialogue, not manipulations.

[Elgazi] Do you and your colleagues favor holding a dialogue with the Israeli Government?

[Al-Zahhar] Yes. The first issue we can discuss is the treatment of civilians on both sides. Following the statements attributed to Shaykh Jamal Salim regarding a truce between Israel and Hamas, I checked with him asking for his intentions, and I agree with his offer.

Just like in Lebanon, where Israel and Hizballah agreed on a cease fire with the indirect mediation of Syria and others, Hamas and Israel can reach an understanding—alone, or with the mediation of the Palestinian Authority or other elements—that civilians, Israeli or Palestinian, will not be harmed. In the framework of such an understanding, Israel can release the sick Shaykh Yasin as a gesture.

[Elgazi] What is your view of the fact that several Israeli Arab leaders condemned the recent attacks?

[Al-Zahhar] It is their opinion. There are other opinions.

[Elgazi] Are you happy with the Israeli-Jordanian peace accord?

[Al-Zahhar] The agreement Jordan is about to sign—just like the agreement Egypt signed, and Syria and Lebanon might sign with Israel—do not solve the real problems between Israel and the Arabs such as, for example, the issue of Jerusalem's future.

The Arab countries that rush to reach agreements with Israel with an eye on U.S. aid money, break Arab unity. The sole victim of these agreements is the Palestinian nation which will be left alone to deal with Israel.

Hamas Spokesman in Amman on 'Latest Operations'

JN2310100694 Amman THE STAR in English 20-26 Oct 94 pp 2, 3

[Report by Ra'id al-'Abd]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hamas' latest operations have completely changed the situation in the West Bank and Gaza, according to Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas' spokesman in Jordan.

He said the objective of the West Jerusalem's shooting last week was to show that Palestinian opposition to the peace process is alive and kicking.

"The importance of this operation was that it took place in the heart of the so-called Israeli entity in West Jerusalem, not in East Jerusalem," he said. "It took place just a few hundred meters away from where U.S. Mr. Warren Christopher was staying. The U.S. Secretary of State heard the shootout.

"Hamas has once more proven the impossibility of the Israeli entity and its inability to make Jerusalem its united capital," he told THE STAR. "Islamists are not only demanding the return of East Jerusalem, but also West Jerusalem as well," he stressed.

"This operation proved the insignificance of the competition between Jordan and the PLO over the holy places in Jerusalem," he said. "The cause is not who controls the holy places, but how to redeem the city of Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine," he added.

Mr. Ghawshah said the operations were also intended to broaden support for the Palestinian cause outside Palestine. He pointed out that one of the three Hamas activists killed in Jerusalem was Egyptian.

Hamas believes the Palestinian cause is an Arab and Islamic one. "The world must not be surprised if they find one day that we have Muslims from other countries amongst our ranks," he said.

Mr. Ghawshah insisted the kidnapping of Israeli corporal Nachson Wachsman was a political act. Hamas "wanted to bring to the forefront the issue of the 5,000 Palestinian detainees still held in Israeli jails."

According to Mr. Ghawshah, the plight of the prisoners "was ignored by (PLO Chairman) 'Arafat." He said 'Arafat's support for the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin

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was a "mere ploy for media attention. .Mr. 'Arafat does not want the release of the prisoners because 3,000 of those detained are Hamas supporters." He added that neither 'Arafat nor Rabin want them released.

"Rabin rejected even our minimum demand, which was to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and women detainees," he said. Mr. Ghawshah holds Rabin responsible for the death of Corporal Wachsman.

Yitzhak Rabin blamed 'Arafat for the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier, who it was alleged was in Gaza, an area under PNA control. Mr. Ghawshah said "what was strange was that 'Arafat accepted this assessment and launched a huge search operation in the Gaza Strip that involved 9,500 of his policemen."

More than 500 people were arrested, including Hamas activists and politicians.

Hamas reacted strongly to the crackdown. Mr. Ghawshah said 'Arafat "has crossed the red lines" by sanctioning sweeping detentions, collections of weapons, the persecution of Hamas activists and the closing of the Islamic University.

He said 'Arafat must now face his people, which is what Peres and Rabin wanted all along: an intra-Palestinian struggle.

He went on to say 'Arafat and Rabin are conspiring to set off a civil war in the Gaza Strip. The mastermind is Rabin and the executor is 'Arafat."

Mr. Ghawshah defended Hamas' actions as legitimate acts of resistance against an occupying power. "Any people whose land is occupied, who are kicked out of their land, and their children killed and others thrown in jail, have the right to fight the occupation. Did not the Europeans resist the Nazi occupation? It was their legitimate right."

Why, he wondered, is resistance to the Zionist occupation considered as terrorism and illegitimate? Those who accuse the Palestinian resistance of terrorism are hypocrites, he said.

Hamas will continue to follow its current path of resistance to the occupation, just as it will not use force against the PNA and its police force, he added.

"The people have discovered that 'Arafat is acting as collaborator for Israel. The people's anger increased even more when they discovered there was collusion between PNA intelligence and its Israeli counterparts during the Dir Nabala operation."

Mr. Ghawshah warned 'Arafat to release prisoners, reopen the Islamic University and halt collection of weapons, or risk facing the Palestinian people. "Hamas will deal with the PNA as part of the Zionist Authority. And just as the Palestinian people fought the occupation they will also fight the new tool of the occupation the PNA."

Hamas Rejects Normalization With Israel

TA2510150194 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabulus, the Nabulus Press Office—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has expressed its categorical rejection of all normalization steps certain Arab countries are undertaking with Israel, including the Jordanian-Israeli agreement that will be signed tomorrow. Hamas stressed that these agreements and normalization campaigns entail unforeseen dangers for the present and future of the Arab and Islamic nations and open the door to Israeli political, economic, and cultural domination of the entire region.

In a statement issued yesterday, Hamas says Arab leaders are competing to host official and civilian Israeli delegations in their countries and establish ties with them. Hamas holds the Palestinian leadership responsible for the current Arab situation and for the fact that some Arab countries have established relations with Israel while forgetting outstanding Palestinian rights that have not been achieved yet.

Hamas expressed its concern about the negative results of the Arab policy of seeking normalization with Israel and emphasized that the Palestinian people, who are still suffering from the occupation, are the only ones who will lose from normalization.

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Algeria

Restrictions on Sports Events With Israel Eased

NC2610073494 Paris AFP in English 0054 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Oct 25 (AFP)—Algeria took a step towards Israel Tuesday [25 October] with an announcement that its sports teams and athletes would henceforth be allowed to face Israeli adversaries in international contests. The first easing of Algeria's traditional hard-line stance over Israel was made by Sports Minister Sid Ali Lebib on the eve of the historic signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan.

"Sporting encounters with Israel, as participant or adversary in multilateral events, will no longer be boycotted by Algerian athletes," he said. The minister justified the change of attitude by developments in the Middle East peace process, in particular between Israel and the Palestinians.

"The latest political developments in the Middle East, where Algeria has always followed the policy of the Palestinians, lead us to a realignment in our relations with Israel," he said. Diplomatic moves could eventually follow, but Algiers risks further angering Islamic fundamentalists who are waging a bloody guerrilla war against the military-backed government.

Twenty-Five 'Terrorists' Killed; Weapons Seized

LD2510184894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A major operation was carried out by the security services. According to the communique that reached us this afternoon, 19 terrorists were killed on 23 October by the security forces in Djebel Fettas, near Ain M'lila. Several weapons were seized and 15 [word indistinct] containing important camping equipment were destroyed. This was announced by the security services who also announced that six terrorists were killed by the security forces between 23-25 October in the Algiers region, in (Chrarba), Bachjarah and (Beau Fraisier). Several weapons were seized.

Egypt

Mubarak, Clinton, 'Arafat Hold Talks in Cairo

Mubarak Welcomes Clinton's Visit

NC2510154794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Egypt and other countries in the region will provide fresh impetus to the peace process by helping to overcome the obstacles and bring the viewpoints of all the parties closer. President Mubarak called for reestablishing Arab relations on new bases of honesty, frankness, full commitment to charters and pledges, and the nonviolation of Arab or international legitimacy.

Regarding the democratic experience in Egypt, President Mubarak said that next year will see the application of recommendations made by the National Dialogue Conference that will serve society's higher interests and its ambitions to achieve development, modernization, and political, economic, and social progress.

This came in statements made by President Mubarak today to Mustafa Najib, MENA's chairman of the board and chief editor, marking MENA's move into transmitting casts via international satellites. [passage omitted]

Asked about the peace process in the Middle East and stability in the region, President Mubarak said that Egypt has fought for decades for the just and comprehensive peace that all the peoples of the region can enjoy and that can achieve stability and prosperity. He added that this was Egypt's ultimate objective, for the sake of which it fought long battles, and it was Egypt that led the crossing of the bumpy road and the surmounting of difficulties without hesitation or retreat.

He added: The Arab peoples have started today to reap the fruits of the policy of comprehensive peace adopted by Egypt. After achieving the first steps in Palestinian self-rule and the peace agreement between Israel and Jordan, Egypt is continuing to work seriously with its brothers and friends to boost the Syrian and Lebanese tracks to achieve all the objectives of the peace process and [word indistinct] stability, security, and development for all the peoples of the region.

He noted that President Bill Clinton's visit to Egypt and other countries in the region comes at the right time and will give fresh impetus to the peace process by helping to overcome the obstacles and bring the viewpoints of all the parties together.

Regarding Egypt's policy toward the Arab homeland and the future of Arab action, President Mubarak said that Egypt's Arab policy stems from its deep belief in the unity of the fate, future, and interests of the brothers in one homeland bound together by culture and history in addition to ties of neighborliness and pan-Arab security.

His excellency went on to say: Egypt always pursues a policy that calls for solidarity and cooperation in every field and on every level. This policy is based on respect for the principles of the Arab League and UN charters and other charters that reject the use of force or the threat to use it to solve disputes that might arise between countries. The tribulations through which the Arab homeland has passed require rebuilding Arab relations on new bases of honesty, frankness, full commitment to charters and pledges, and the nonviolation of Arab or international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

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Mubarak, Clinton, Delegations Hold Talks

NC2610074194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0646 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and U.S. President Bill Clinton held a round of talks at al-Qubbah Presidential Palace this morning. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and the members of the Egyptian and U.S. delegations also attended the talks.

'Arafat Joins Talks

NC2610081494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—At 0900 today Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat joined the discussions of Presidents Husni Mubarak and Bill Clinton which had begun at 0800. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace operation, also attended the talks.

PA's Sha'th To Join Meeting

NC2610065894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0619 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PA], arrived in Cairo early today after a brief visit to Spain.

On his arrival, Sha'th said that during his visit to Spain he participated in a conference on European national dialogue [as received] and met with the Spanish foreign minister, with whom he discussed several issues of mutual interest.

Sha'th said that he will take part today in the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. President Bill Clinton. He explained that the discussions will touch on ways of lifting the Israeli siege of Gaza to prevent any adverse economic, political, and humanitarian effects.

Sha'th pointed out that it is necessary to discuss Israel's position on the Palestinian elections, conditions in the West Bank, and the release of Palestinian detainees from Israeli jails. He remarked that this last issue creates numerous problems. He added that President Clinton, in his capacity as the peace operation's chief sponsor and the witness to the signing of the agreement, must help to boost the peace process and exercise some pressures on Israel.

Mubarak, Clinton Hold News Conference

NC2610092594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0749 GMT 26 Oct 94

[News conference held by U.S. President Bill Clinton and President Husni Mubarak with unidentified correspondents at the Presidential Palace of al-Qubbah in Cairo—live, in English with superimposed Arabic translation; translation is from the Arabic]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mubarak] Good morning. I was extremely happy to welcome President Bill Clinton here in Egypt on behalf of the Egyptian people. We look to President Clinton with great admiration and esteem. He is a man of courage and conviction, values and action. Since he assumed his great responsibilities he has demonstrated great ability in performing his domestic duties and showed interest in foreign policy. Under his leadership, the United States played a basic role in preserving world peace and security. Such a role is indispensable in an era characterized by constant change and disturbances.

It is only natural that the Middle East should command extreme attention from the U.S. President and his people. During the past two years, a great deal has been achieved on the path of peace. Much of this was achieved thanks to the active role capably played by the U.S. Administration. This was a continuous success story.

We are aware of the obstacles remaining on the path to a comprehensive and permanent peace. We are determined to continue our endeavors with willpower. We are moving forward to consolidate the steps that have been taken on the Palestinian-Israeli track. We cannot forget the centrality and importance of the Syrian-Israeli track. Today President Clinton and I discussed ways of achieving tangible progress in this field. I am confident that President Clinton is committed to a permanent and honorable peace. He is doing all he can to reach this goal without delay. In the next few weeks, we will work together and bolster efforts to reach this goal.

We must kindle hope in the hearts of (?forces) in the region. At the same time, we must fight despair and violence. We regret the killing of innocent people due to hatred. The time has come to heal the wounds of the past and create better opportunities and a better future for both the Arabs and Israelis.

President Clinton, you have made a great contribution to strengthening the friendship between our two nations. Through your words and deeds, you have stressed your partnership with us for peace and friendship, which our people greatly appreciate. In our discussions this morning, we studied new ways and means to further bolster our cooperation. We are determined that this trend will continue. In short, we agree that this relationship, which enjoys mutual respect, is a constant factor for progress and stability and an example for cooperation and unity among nations. With sound vision, you are shouldering a great deal in this respect.

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I wish you success in your efforts during this trip. We appreciate your decision to make Egypt the first stop of your trip. This city realizes the difficulties of making decisions for peace. The first steps for peace were taken here. May God bless your endeavors and preserve you. Thank you.

[Clinton] Thank you President Mubarak. It is fitting to start off this day, which will include the special celebration of a new peace between Jordan and Israel, in Egypt, with President Mubarak. Egypt's courageous example, which we started in Camp David, and President Husni Mubarak's leadership in the continuing peace process have paved the way for the progress so far, progress that we are celebrating today. Mr. President, this region and the whole international community are indebted to you with great gratitude and appreciation. Egypt has led the way and I am proud to stand here with you. The United States is proud to stand with Egypt as a partner in peace. Today I reconfirmed to President Mubarak that I will do all I can to realize a comprehensive settlement. The peace we are seeking to establish requires from all sides a great deal more than just setting aside their weapons. We seek to strengthen relations among the people so that the governments can cooperate through a clear vision of their joint future. The United States has taken every step together with Egypt. Despite the great sacrifices, the road to peace has created better conditions for Egypt after a long struggle and years of sustaining victims. We have wasted no efforts since 1973. Now we see new goals in the region and I salute President Mubarak for the decisive role he has played in bringing the Palestinians and Israelis together. Your work made the historic peace between 'Arafat and Rabin in the White House last year possible. Let us keep moving on that front. President Mubarak and I have just met Chairman 'Arafat and held fruitful negotiations and discussions to implement the Declaration of Principles between the Palestinians and Israel. We reviewed the progress surrounding elections and the early empowerment of Palestinian authority in the West Bank. I made it clear that the United States places great importance on peace based on democratic institutions. I also told Chairman 'Arafat that when the Palestinian administration starts to work on setting up a system to generate revenue, the United States will exert international efforts to support the Israeli-Palestinian Agreement for early empowerment in the West Bank. We also discussed an issue of great urgency, the absolute necessity to combat Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and all other extremist groups using terror to perpetuate hatred. We agreed that courage is needed to fight the enemies of peace. Chairman 'Arafat also stressed this point. The United States stands alongside all the friends of peace. Terrorists must not be allowed, they must not be allowed to intimidate the peoples of this region into abandoning the peace process. At this moment of opportunity, anyone who adopts a course of violence and threatens the Palestinians is threatening the entire Arab people. The enemies of peace are desperate but they must not be allowed to crush the forces of the future. President Mubarak and I discussed our determination to stand as partners in this and many other efforts. We have worked on many things around the world. We continue to do so now. I congratulate him again on his success with the International Conference on Population and Development held here in Cairo. We will continue to work together on many fronts, including on the need to stand up and repel the Iraqi threat to Kuwait. We are committed to promoting economic growth in Egypt too. At my request the vice president met President Mubarak when he was in Cairo in September and they initiated a partnership for economic growth. Earlier this week our two countries agreed to establish two committees to support this partnership. The vice president will have a great deal to say about this in the coming months. I believe he will return here. Allow my wife and me to thank President Mubarak for this warm welcome. I thank President Mubarak in particular for his leadership in this process. I am convinced that we would not have been here today had it not been for his efforts.

[Correspondent] This question is for both presidents. How did president 'Arafat respond to the suggestion that it was necessary to fight Hamas and other terrorist groups? How do you explain 'Arafat's comment on the Jordanian- Israeli agreement, in which he said: Let those who back this agreement go and drink sea water?

[Mubarak] Chairman 'Arafat wants to end Hamas' violence. I remember that when events occurred two weeks ago, he did his utmost and arrested several Hamas members when he learned that the [abducted] soldier was killed, although the incident did not happen in Gaza. He informed U.S. Secretary of State Christopher of the efforts to end that problem. Cooperation between the two sides is necessary to prevent Hamas from spoiling the peace operation and to make progress toward regional peace.

[Clinton] I felt that we got a definite and clear response from Chairman 'Arafat. President Mubarak's position was firm and clear. Chairman 'Arafat asserted that he would do his utmost to combat violence and terrorism, especially with regard to Hamas and some other groups. I feel satisfied with the answer he gave. I am sure he will carry out what he said he would. We discussed this and many other issues. But he will continue his efforts on this issue. He has perfectly and clearly understood that Hamas is an enemy. If you want to be a partner in a peace process, you must fight for peace. Those who seek to ruin this effort are threatening you. 'Arafat understands this perfectly. I was satisfied with his answer. Now we will achieve results. I believe the situation is now clear.

[Correspondent] What was his answer?

[Clinton] We did not discuss this in detail. This is a great day. I believe we will continue the process. I agree with President Mubarak that we must seek progress on the

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Syrian and Lebanese fronts. But it is clear that the peace process is on the right track.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, you are the first U.S. President to visit Syria in 20 years. Do you expect to bridge the gap between the Syrian and Israeli views? Do you expect progress in this area before the end of 1994?

[Clinton] I expect we will make some progress. I expect we will narrow the gap but I do not believe that this trip to Syria will produce immediate results. But we have made a great deal of progress in the past few months. This has encouraged me. I believe that President al-Asad, Prime Minister Rabin, and their two nations want to work for peace. Hence I am visiting Syria to find a solution. But it is up to the two parties concerned to make their own decisions and specify the time. I am convinced of the need to make progress. We must try to make this happen as soon as possible but I cannot give a date.

[Correspondent] President Clinton, some time ago the secretary of state spoke in Washington about international pressure on Iran with regard to Hamas. He did not refer to any Western country. But apparently some Western countries, like France and Germany, have commercial dealings with Iran. What are your views about Iran in connection with this affair? Perhaps President Mubarak can state what the Arab world can do to exert pressure on Iran in this regard.

[Clinton] First, I say that what we want to do about Hamas and some other terrorist groups is to put pressure on all the sources of backing they get and that we can pinpoint. This includes efforts that go further than Iran. You know that particular measures can be taken, such as breaking economic ties. We will ask all our friends in the world to do that. All peaceloving opponents of terrorism will do that.

[Correspondent] President Clinton, regarding terrorism, how can the United States positively assess what Yasir 'Arafat is doing to combat terrorism? Are there any plans by the United States to allocate funds to implement the agreement between Israel and the PLO and is this linked with combating terrorism?

[Clinton] I will answer the second part of this question. There was absolutely no discussion of linking any efforts between the United States and the international community [as heard]. Combating terrorism is the first step and the basic condition for the success of the peace process. We discussed the need to acknowledge [sentence left incomplete] We have always acknowledged and supported and will continue with the elections in the territories and to help economic development. [as heard] But there was no link. Chairman 'Arafat himself began the discussions. He expressed his desire and readiness to fight the terrorist groups and to do all he can. We all agree that it is not possible to guarantee 100 percent the success of any effort. The United States has not completely succeeded in combating organized crime. What we want to seek is the effort toward this goal. We want the Israelis to make efforts for the peace process with the PLO and the other parties and any party that can support this process. From the remarks I heard from many people, efforts were intensified in the past few weeks by Chairman 'Arafat and the Palestinian authorities to do all they can regarding this point. I believe these efforts will continue. I can say that President Mubarak agrees with me on this.

[Correspondent] President Clinton, what statement will you make—after speaking strongly of terrorism—when you visit Syria, which the United States said supports terrorism. President Mubarak, have you discussed the sanctions imposed on Libya with President Clinton? If so, will the sanctions on Libya be lifted partially or completely?

[Clinton] I will answer the part of the question relating to Syria. Terrorism is still an issue we are discussing with Syria. We cannot deny or ignore this issue. But a successful way of combating terrorism in this part of the world is to establish a comprehensive peace in the region. Syria is a partner in the peace process. We are making progress in this field. I believe that President al-Asad is seeking a comprehensive peace and an end to terrorism as part of this peace. I believe it would be a mistake on my part not to take the opportunity while I am in this part of the world to go to Syria to strengthen the peace process.

[Mubarak] Regarding the sanctions on Iraq and Libya, we discussed this issue in general. This issue was on my agenda and we discussed it.

[Correspondent] Will the situation continue or will there be further steps in connection with the sanctions?

[Mubarak] We will need to carry out further discussion of this affair with the United States.

[Correspondent] This question is addressed to Presidents Clinton and Mubarak. What is the U.S. view and the Egyptian view on the delay in implementing self-rule in the occupied territories?

[Clinton] The U.S. viewpoint is to continue our efforts as fast as possible. We wish to back the election process. We back multilateral international efforts in the region. We also perfectly understand Israel's security concerns. One of the issues I wanted to tackle during my meeting with 'Arafat and my talks in Israel was to reduce disagreements over this issue so that we can hold the elections and boost the economic development process. I believe we must do that as fast as possible, taking Israel's security needs into account.

[Mubarak] Concerning the Egyptian viewpoint, we support the continuing implementation of the Declaration of Principles. But [words indistinct] terrorist acts will obstruct the peace process and will produce neither security nor comprehensive peace in the region. Thank you very much.

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[Correspondent] Did 'Arafat ask for your assistance or mediation to solve the Jordanian-Palestinian dispute over Jerusalem's holy shrines?

[Clinton] We did not discuss that at all.

[Mubarak] Thank you.

Clinton Leaves for Signing Ceremony

NC2610094194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has left Cairo for Jordan to attend the signing ceremony of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement. President Mubarak headed the delegation to see him off at Cairo Airport.

Mubarak, 'Arafat Hold Talks at Airport

NC2610100794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0931 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a round of talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidential Lounge at Cairo International Airport this morning. A Palestinian delegation comprised of Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PA]; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PA minister of culture and information; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, also attended the meeting.

Commentary Views Clinton's Mideast Tour

NC2510161094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 25 Oct 94

[Commentary by Ahmad Sha'ban: "U.S. President's Tour of the Region and Its Desired Positive Effects"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Middle East will witness brisk diplomatic action in the next few days beginning tomorrow. U.S. President Bill Clinton will conduct a tour of the region beginning with a visit to Egypt to meet President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. They will review several issues, foremost of which are Middle East peace; the situation in the Gulf; and bilateral relations, especially economic cooperation; the transfer of U.S. technology to Egypt; the possibility of boosting U.S. investments in Egypt; and other trade and economic issues, including exports.

Although bilateral ties are important in the Cairo talks tomorrow between Presidents Mubarak and Clinton, the two presidents have other priorities, foremost of which are Middle East developments in light of the efforts being made to advance the peace process in general and for the Palestinian and Syrian sides in particular.

If we ask why for these two sides in particular, we will find that the answer is simple: The current obstacles to the Palestinian-Israeli peace, which have been erected by the enemies of peace on both sides and by those who hold radical views and seek to frustrate the peace process at any cost are not in the Palestinian and Israeli people's interests. Peace by any means is in the two peoples' interests, and the continuation of conflict is at the expense of the two nations.

If we say that officials on both sides agree on the need to pursue the dialogue for the continuation of the peace process, this represents a positive stand, and they deserve appreciation for these stands.

In light of the important situation at this time, President Mubarak was eager for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to be present at a tripartite meeting in which the issues will be discussed objectively. The role of the United States has become evident as a full partner in the Middle East peace process, and the United States and Egypt played a role until a meeting was held between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

The U.S. President will then leave Cairo for Jordan to attend the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli accord in which the United States had a very important role. The United States made effective diplomatic efforts until bilateral meetings were held, and an agreement in principle was reached which was crowned with an agreement to sign a peace treaty between the two sides.

Let us put aside the Palestinian side, which will take precedence in the Cairo meeting, and the Jordanian-Israeli accord, which will be signed with Egypt's participation since Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will attend the signing ceremony. If we put these aside and turn to the Syrian side, we find great U.S. interest in, and appreciation for, this side because of Syria's importance and its role in the peace of the whole region.

News agencies carry reports hinting at the likelihood of narrowing the gap between the Syrians and Israelis, and many political analysts predict that progress will be made on the Syrian-Israeli track after the U.S. President visits Syria and meets President Hafiz al-Asad. Syria has affirmed several times its outright interest in peace and its positive efforts to achieve peace. It is wrong for some people to think that the option of peace means choosing the easy way; on the contrary, the opposite is true, because the road to peace is very rough and thorny. This is particularly true, because there are elements who are working hard to bury the peace for aims and purposes not in the interest of the Arab and Israeli nations. The option for peace is a difficult one and peace requires numerous characteristics, such as patience and resilience and, at the same time, adherence to one's rights.

If the U.S. President's tour of the region begins in Cairo, as President Clinton himself confirmed in appreciation of President Mubarak's role in the peace process, and if the tour includes going to Jordan to attend the signing of a peace accord with Israel, in addition to Syria, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, there is hope for a real breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track. There is also hope of possibly reaching a solution to the Gulf crisis. This would lead to

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Iraq's recognition of Kuwaiti sovereignty and, in turn, to a lifting of the blockade and an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people, so that complete security and stability would be restored to the Middle East and the Gulf.

Libya

'Capitulationist' Israeli-Jordan Treaty Criticized

LD2510212494 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1945 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 25 Oct—The following is a statement made by a source at the General People's Committee for Unity: On a bad day when the spirit of defeat and humiliation prevails among desperate regimes, when the Arab masses absent themselves from decisionmaking concerning their destinies and the expression of their will, and in a new capitulationist step of dangerous dimensions, the Jordanian regime is signing the document of recognition of the Israeli enemy. This is an attempt to give legality to the Israelis as an alien entity within the Arab body, providing the enemy a cover for its occupation of the Arab land of Palestine, usurped with the force of arms, and dealing with this enemy on the basis of Arab land concessions in return for alleged peace. Thus, he who has no right to yield is yielding this right to him who does not deserve it, to whom such a right should not be conceded.

The Jordanian signing with the Israelis is an attempt doomed to failure to usurp the Arab people's will to cling to its legitimate national and inalienable rights, given that these are pan-Arab rights that belong to the entire Arab nation. The nation, with its history, heritage, sacrifices, the blood of its martyrs, and its great capabilities, condemns and rejects any capitulationist step that aims at conceding pan-Arab rights. A surrender by any Arab ruler or regime collapsing under the burden of defeat shall never shackle the Arab nation. The dangerous contents of the agreement concluded by the Jordanian regime force us to address the following facts to the Arab masses who are capable of making the agreement fail and contain its results and effects:

First, the Arab nation believes in a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace that enables it to fully retrieve all its rights in Palestine and permits the return of the Palestinian people and the departure of the Israeli settlers and the establishment of a democratic Palestinian state. Any humiliating agreements have no relationship with peace.

Second, the idea and project of an Israeli state in the heart of the Arab homeland goes beyond the usurpation of Palestine and the dispersing of its people to destroying and fragmenting the Arab existence, and to seizing the possibilities of the Arab nation in the framework of a plan for creating a mini ethnic and sectarian entities dominated by the Israeli entity. The Arab-Israeli conflict is a conflict over existence and not bargaining over [word indistinct] borders [word indistinct].

Third, the fact that the Israeli enemy is in possession of nuclear weapons and other arms of mass destruction, a huge western arsenal, and given its plans for the immigration of millions of Jews in the world into occupied Palestine, underlines the aggressive reality of the Israeli entity and its [word indistinct] and threat to the Arab homeland from the Gulf to the Ocean. If those who sign the checks of recognition for Israel believe otherwise then they will be the first victims of the Israelis after the latter attain their objectives.

Fourth, the Jordanian-Israeli agreement and its concessions regarding Jordanian sovereignty, by leasing Arab lands to the enemy, is a grave precedent and an illegitimate relinquishing of the national interests of the Arab nation. Moreover, it is an abandonment of the Jordanian rights themselves and it imposes ties on Jordan in the domains of politics, economy, and information. It also mentions cooperation on security between the two sides. All this has negative repercussions on national Arab security, and it opens up Arab potentials to Israeli control.

Fifth, the Jordanian-Israeli agreement was a result of a unilateral negotiation, peace, and normalization with the historic enemy of the Arab nation. It burns the Arab conventions and treaties and weakens the Arab unified stand, thus empowering the hand of the Israeli entity against the Arab nation in order to reinforce its existence. Likewise, Jordan has considerably failed its pan-Arab commitments by giving priority to its agreement with the Israelis over the provisions of the Arab collective and bilateral conventions, particularly the Arab common defense treaty, the economic unity agreements, and the clauses of the Arab boycott of Israel.

The consequence of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, with all the forfeiture and surrender it brings, will be the creation of hot beds of tension and internal conflicts tearing the Arab reality asunder and weakening it. It will also transform the issue of Jerusalem from being the capital of the Palestinian people into a mere question of custodianship over religious rites without a link to the issue of the land, thus endorsing the Israeli viewpoint and aligning itself to Israel's service.

Sixth, the Jordanian-Israeli agreement goes beyond surrendered Jordanian sovereignty by endorsing dubious schemes targeting the Arab nation through the political, economic, and security containment projects of the area, including the so-called Middle Eastern Market, controlling the sources of Arab water and resources, and using Jordan as an entry for Israelis to travel to other Arab countries in order to isolate and tackle them one by one.

This agreement constitutes a surrender imposed on a defeated Arab system, a weakening of the Arab nation, and a step on the road to destroying the Arab people's will to resist and confront in order to recover its land and its right to live with honor and dignity.

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Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Views Iraq, Boycott, Other Topics

NC2510151794 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Oct 94 p 3

[Interview with King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' at the al-Salam Palace in Jeddah; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nafi'] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, President Husni Mubarak held urgent contacts with you regarding the Iraqi troop buildup on the Kuwaiti border. Do you believe that the Iraqi danger to the Gulf countries still exists, even given the international pressure on the Iraqi regime? Do you think this danger can be removed or contained, particularly as the Iraqi regime seems not to have learned a lesson and persists in its irresponsible behavior toward its neighboring Arab countries?

[Fahd] It is obvious to every sane man that the behavior of the regime in Iraq poses a real and increasing danger to the Iraqi people themselves. This regime is pushing the people into crushing wars because of its futile political planning and miscalculations, which could cause grave consequences. This requires every neighboring country and even the international community to take precautions and be vigilant to rein in the regime's aggressive spirit as part of preventive measures to contain the danger until the Iraqi people have the opportunity to express their views.

[Nafi'] A campaign of arrests began in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recently involving fundamentalists who seek to destroy stability in the country. What is your view of the external or domestic forces that move these elements? What are the security guarantees adopted by the Saudi authorities to confront this phenomenon?

[Fahd] The people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, thank God, are Muslim and adhere to their Islamic creed in word and deed. There are no so-called fundamentalists, extremists, or rigid elements among the people. But people harbor evil and good. A discreet man whom God endowed with the ability to pursue a straightforward path cannot be fickle or prone to whims. We praise God that the Saudi people, thanks to their adherence to the true and pure Islamic creed, are secure, because God safeguards them. Regarding individuals, whose number was given in the statement released by the Interior Ministry, we pray to God to guide them so that they may learn a lesson from societies beset with fragmentation. They can only do so if they act sincerely in God's way. They can thus close the gaps through which erroneous ideas infiltrate from any source. The Saudi authorities have taken the necessary and appropriate measures in time without harming any of the detainees, who we hope will regain their senses. You may have read the Interior Ministry's statement announcing the release of 130 detainees and the detention of 27 others to complete their interrogation.

[Nafi'] Western media recently tried to distort the clear image of Saudi Arabia and to harm the stability it enjoys. What is the truth of the incidents that led to the detention of people who went off the straight and narrow and to the release of statements by other groups abroad?

[Fahd] Some tendentious and hostile information bodies have grown used to exploiting particular cases to harm this country because of its adherence to Islam, which ensures stability and prosperity. Those individuals, who are so few in number, benefitted from the available resources provided by the State, such as mosques and clubs. They expressed their ideas freely to people. But when they exceeded the limit such that they harmed society, the State had to act to stop them, especially as they violated the counsel and instructions unanimously approved by senior ulema.

[Nafi'] Will the Kingdom witness new measures and controls in the next stage to prevent violators from using religion to confuse the people?

[Fahd] There are no new measures in this regard, because the Interior Ministry has rules derived from true Islamic shari'ah to address any eventuality. The Interior Ministry addresses each case in the best possible way on a rational and objective basis in accordance with the consensus of senior ulema, who contribute a distinguished role in guiding the nation and enlightening the path for the satisfaction of God.

[Nafi'] Do you think the Palestinian Authority [PA] in the liberated territories, still in its infancy, is receiving sufficient backing and assistance from the Arab countries, considering the difficulties it is facing?

[Fahd] The PA in the liberated territories is making strenuous efforts to complete all its tasks and build its new state and this is the focus of all the concerned countries' attention. In my opinion this must be done by practical, sound, and realistic measures. It is known that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supported the Palestinian cause from the start and backed it throughout the phases through which it passed, doing its utmost to back this cause in various political and financial spheres so that the Palestinian people might obtain their legitimate rights, namely to return to their homeland and build an independent state on their land. Doubtless, what has been achieved is by the grace of God, a result of sincere effort, and a positive step on the road toward a just and comprehensive peace. We are continuing our efforts to make peace prevail throughout the region, God willing.

[Nafi'] What is the opinion of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques on the resolution adopted by the Gulf Cooperation Council's foreign ministers to end the boycott of international companies dealing with Israel? Do you believe its timing serves the political cause?

[Fahd] The foreign ministers' decision does not signify ending the primary boycott but deals with its second and

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third tiers, namely those foreign companies and establishments that have limited dealings with Israel. This does not provide direct benefit to Israel; it is, rather, a step to ensure the success of the current efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in a way that serves our Arab nation's general interest—the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights in full.

[Nafi'] Intensive efforts are being made to boost the peace operation on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Can you acquaint us with your views on current events and your expectations?

[Fahd] What is happening on these two tracks, despite the impediments, is progressively improving, thanks to God and to the concerted efforts of fraternal and friendly countries, which have thrown their weight behind the quest for a comprehensive and just peace.

[Nafi'] Following talks between Egyptian and Saudi military officials, it has been announced repeatedly that security arrangements will be made for the Red Sea. What is Your Majesty's opinion about such an Egyptian-Saudi role?

[Fahd] Cooperation between the Kingdom and fraternal Egypt during the term of His Excellency President Husni Mubarak has made strides in various vital fields to the benefit of the two fraternal countries on every level. So every decision approved by the two countries' joint committees is immediately implemented with the concurrence of the two countries' leaders. Regarding security arrangements in the Red Sea, this is an issue of constant interest and Egypt always participates in a pioneering spirit thanks to the special status bestowed upon it by God and thanks to its sincere and wise leadership.

[Nafi'] Saudi Arabia concluded several major arms deals in the past 10 years, primarily the first and second "al-Yamamah" deals with Britain, the F-15 aircraft deal and the M1-A2 deal with the United States, and the maintenance deals with France. What is Saudi Arabia's strategy for arming the Saudi Armed Forces? Can the dangers that Saudi Arabia seeks to contain with this deterrent force be defined?

[Fahd] The armament process in Saudi Arabia is subject to studied steps based on continuing development of our Armed Forces to protect our gains. This is a natural right recognized by the international community. We harbor good feelings toward every country. Saudi Arabia has never been a source of harm to any party. Since its inception Saudi Arabia has been a source of goodness, support, and cooperation for all its brothers. It pleases us to see security, peace, and stability prevail in the world. Our Armed Forces support this benign line and, at the same time, are fully prepared to ward off dangers from any source.

[Nafi'] Saudi Arabia is considered to be at the top of the symbols of the Islamic world. What is the role being played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in this field through its relations with the big powers and the Islamic countries regarding the ongoing annihilation of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina since 1992?

[Fahd] What is happening to the Muslim people in Bosnia-Herzegovina at the hands of the Serb aggressors is extremely serious. It is an ugly specter of oppression and aggression. Saudi Arabia along with fraternal and friendly countries is doing all it can to end this tragedy. This tragedy has dragged on because of differences in views on how to address it. The Serbs are exploiting the situation to implement their aggressive plans. All peace-loving countries should be vigilant to this danger and act to stop its growing threats to preserve the lives and honor of innocent people. I do not need to note the stances that Saudi Arabia, its Government, and people adopted. Saudi Arabia is offering financial, political, and humanitarian assistance to the Bosnian people. We continue to send relief aid by land and air to alleviate the suffering, because they have suffered a great deal of injustice and persecution.

[Nafi'] The Riyadh summit held last year under your auspices discussed the establishment of an integrated organization to defend Gulf security. What has been achieved in this regard? Does the idea of establishing a Gulf defense army still exist or has it been replaced by the bilateral agreements with the big powers?

[Fahd] The Peninsula Shield was established to serve as an integrated organization for defending Gulf security. Efforts continue to strengthen it and complete its defense capabilities so that it can, God willing, carry out any missions assigned it in defense of the Gulf. The bilateral agreements you mentioned have nothing to do with this organization.

[Nafi'] What is the way to restore lost Arab solidarity following the repercussions of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait? What is the means for the Arabs to emerge from this impasse at a time when the world is closing ranks while the Arab nation's disintegration is increasing?

[Fahd] Restoring Arab solidarity to its previous level requires ensuring the right climate. The sincere Arab leaderships continue their efforts to achieve this basic Arab demand.

[Nafi'] When do you intend to accept the invitation extended to you to visit the United States?

[Fahd] I received an invitation from President Bill Clinton to visit the United States. I promised him that I was eager to visit at the first appropriate opportunity, God willing.

'Terrorist' Actions Against Peace Process Condemned

LD2510214894 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In reply to a question regarding the noticeable escalation of the terrorist operations

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which may harm efforts being made for peace in the region, an official source told SPA today that the Government of the Servant of the Two Holy Places King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz would like to reaffirm anew its denunciation and condemnation of the terrorist operations irrespective of their type and in any place where they may take place. The sources added: "In this connection, the Kingdom particularly condemns those terrorist operations which hinder the peace processes and which try to disturb the safety and security of the region."

Iran's 'Destructive' Regional Role Criticized

LD2610102394 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0745 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 26 Oct—[passage omitted] The AL-NADWAH newspaper said this morning in its editorial that it is futile for a dialogue to start on the issues of the Gulf region between Iran and the countries of the region in the absence of the essential ingredients for an objective dialogue, and without there being good intentions on Iran's part. The newspaper made a comparison between the Iraqi regime's occupation of Kuwait and what the present Iranian regime is carrying out, including its seizure of the three [United Arab] Emirates' islands, in addition to Iran's attempt to abuse the holy places in this country and terrify the pilgrims of the Ka'aba.

The newspaper added that the Iranian regime was not content with all that, but went on to bark through its mass media, attacking this virtuous country and the sons of the Gulf region, to the extent that its barking extended to the whole of the Arab world because everyone has isolated it from the movements and meetings which have taken place in the region to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Arab region. Iran considered that one of its legitimate rights, as though it was an Arab country with a direct or indirect link to this thorny issue which belongs to the Arabs alone.

The newspaper concluded by saying that Iran has recently been playing a destructive role in the region, adding that the best way to characterize it would be to describe it as being a "futile" role, which is considered a mirror image of the role played by Saddam Husayn in the region.

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'Udayy: Saddam, Not 'Aziz, Should Run Diplomacy

JN2410192994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Oct

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president's son, has strongly criticized Iraqi diplomacy and considered it incapable of obtaining anything from the United Nations in return for Baghdad's concessions. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, who runs the newspaper BABIL and the Youth Television, said during a seminar organized by the said television last night that his country's diplomacy, of which Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz is in charge, should be placed under the direct administration of the Iraqi presidency, as is the case regarding the internal situation in Iraq.

The Iraqi president's son accused Washington of trying to starve the Iraqis to raise the issue of changing the political regime. 'Udayy expected this policy to fail and urged Iraqi diplomats to focus their efforts on strengthening relations with Russia rather than China or France in order to ease the international sanctions imposed on Iraq.

BABIL published an article today accusing U.S. President Bill Clinton of scheduling his Middle East tour to compensate for his decreasing popularity by winning the support of the U.S. Jewish lobby.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Iraqi Ba'th Party, also believes that Clinton's tour is aimed at maintaining the U.S. military presence in the Gulf, rather than restoring peace in the region, despite the intentions the United States has announced.

Writer Says Clinton's Visit Devoted to 'Plotting'

JN2510150194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has said that U.S. President Bill Clinton's upcoming visit to the Arab region is devoted to further plotting and aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation.

In an article by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi entitled "Evil Owl, Return to Your Country," the newspaper said: The objective of Clinton's visit is focused on coordination with the U.S. agents to put the final touches to the executive steps for implementing the aggression scenario against Iraq, plotting against its unity and independence, and tightening the siege on its people.

The newspaper added: Hence, Clinton's visit to some Arab capitals complements the U.S. objective sought from escalating and exacerbating the situation in the demilitarized area between Iraq and Kuwait, which aimed to launch a so-called preventive strike against the Republican Guards.

The newspaper emphasized that aborting the motives of the fabricated U.S. escalation by Iraq did not end the reactionary U.S. and British aggressive design, part of which is Security Council Resolution 949.

The newspaper expected that alternative options would be considered in accordance with regional and international developments in light of the rejection of the aggressive U.S. and British approach by big powers which are permanent members of the Security Council.

The newspaper emphasized that the blackmailing muscle flexing, mounting military buildup, and the shameless threats near the Iraqi international border will not intimidate anyone and will not frighten any dignified and vigilant Iraqi, but will further increase the anger and denunciation of the Iraqi people.

'Hasty' Kuwaiti MP's Reply to Speaker Assailed

JN2510141994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—Newspaper AL-'IRAQ has criticized the reaction of some Kuwaiti parliament members to the statement of National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih in his news conference last Saturday [15 October] in which he expressed his readiness to discuss any problem anywhere directly with the Kuwaiti deputies.

In an editorial written by Nuri Nijm al-Marsumi entitled "Much Reason and Little Emotion," the newspaper said: The Iraqi position announced by the National Assembly speaker is an extension of the positions of Iraqi deputies and an embodiment of the Iraqi leadership's position on relations with Arab brothers, but that hasty reactions voiced against this position by some Kuwaiti deputies was something strange.

The newspaper added: Regardless of the hasty reactions, we in Iraq behave on the basis of the strength of faith, calmly, and with great self-confidence. We will continue to work with all good people of our nation to correct the dangerous deviations in the Arab world.

The newspaper urged those intoxicated by the enemies' spears: To think and reason well and calmly, and not let the world move in ways that it would later do no good to regret.

It urged all to read history carefully—history of peoples and nations—and to learn from it. In this context, the newspaper recalled the developments and changes that took place in this century, foremost of which was the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

It emphasized that when Kuwaiti treasuries become empty, those who lived—and are still living—on the illusions of foreign protection will not find one soldier to protect their gates, and then they will realize the kind of adventure in which they have involved themselves.

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Dispute Over Clinton Tour of Jerusalem Detailed

TA2510154594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] US President Bill Clinton wants to visit the Old City without Israeli officials, so as not to appear supporting Israeli rule in eastern Jerusalem, according to sources planning the visit.

However, the Prime Minister's Office is insisting that Clinton's tour of the Old City be part of his official visit, the sources said.

As of last night, officials in the Clinton administration and Prime Minister's Office were trying to resolve the dispute.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert has also become involved. Olmert was particularly upset over the American position, sources close to the mayor said.

Traditionally, the mayor accompanies dignitaries who visit Jerusalem on their tours of the Old City, the sources said.

Even former US president Jimmy Carter went with then mayor Teddy Kollek to eastern Jerusalem, despite the Americans not recognizing Israeli control over that part of the city, the sources said.

Asked about the dispute, the mayor's spokesman said last night that "we expect behavior of a different sort from the American president. We believe that it will damage the atmosphere of the visit of President Clinton if he insists on going alone to the Old City," the spokesman said.

Clinton is scheduled to visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Western Wall, and the Temple Mount during a visit to the Old City presently scheduled for Thursday night.

Olmert Firm on Accompanying Clinton

TA2510192794 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Oct 94

[Rina Matzliah video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] One detail that remains to be settled is who will accompany the U.S. President on his tour of the Old City. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert says that he received a message from the White House that Clinton wants Olmert to accompany him, but perhaps not the entire route.

[Begin Olmert recording] I do not know what he means by not on the Temple Mount, but as far as I am concerned, there is no difference between one place and another. The mayor must either accompany him wherever he goes in Jerusalem or nowhere. In other words, there can be no distinction regarding places I should not go to because this is inconvenient for somebody. [end recording]

Clinton is not only an important but also a nice man, the mayor added, and Jerusalem will be happy to host him.

[Begin Olmert recording] Jerusalem is ready and will be decorated. I will be very glad if the residents of the city come out to welcome the U.S. President. [end recording]

Talks on Possible U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem Detailed

TA2510161094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Oct 94 p B3

[From the "I Saw, I Heard" column by Amnon Barzilay: "What Is the United States Building on the Allenby Base?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Quietly, without blaring trumpets, the Israeli and U.S. Governments recently reached an arrangement on the start of the construction of a building that may become the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. As in many other cases, this agreement, which meant that the government had to abandon previous stands, was primarily achieved thanks to an understanding between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. In this case, Rabin was acting also in his capacity as interior minister.

The present agenda speaks of "diplomatic buildings" [mivnim diplomati'im]. This discreet and noncommittal formulation, which had been adopted also by the Interior Ministry's District Planning Committee, rescued the negotiations from an impasse of several years. In the past, the Government of Israel objected to the vague U.S. definitions of the functions of the buildings that would be erected on the site of the army's Allenby base. The abandoned army site had been leased to the U.S. Government in 1989, and Israel hoped it would build an embassy there. The U.S. State Department wanted to build several buildings on the site, but it never agreed to make a commitment to establish its embassy there.

In discussions held at the District Planning Committee, Israel demanded that the agreement stipulate that the project will become an embassy and that another structure—a residential one—would be inhabited by the ambassador. The United States refused to determine in advance either the function of?the buildings or what nature of high-ranking official would occupy the luxury residence it planned to build. At some stage, the District Planning Committee asked for the Foreign Ministry legal adviser's assistance in the formulation. The ministry contributed its own version of the definition of the residence: "a residence that can be used as the ambassador's quarters."

The District Planning Committee thought this version meant surrender to a U.S. dictum and rejected it. The discussions had been stuck in committee since 1992, but

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the new Middle East reality had an impact on these negotiations as well. In messages exchanged by the two countries in the interim, Israel decided not to insist on its previous formulas, and the U.S. stand was also rendered more flexible. Cabinet Secretary Shmu'el Hollander, who joined the talks in the past few weeks, was party to the legal phrasing. The final drafts were submitted for the prime minister's approval last week. The approved definition stated that "diplomatic buildings" will be erected on the site and that "the most senior U.S. diplomatic representative will live" in the building assigned for residence. The fiery arguments over various snags, which were conducted primarily under Likud governments, are perceived as unimportant in 1994.

"I can assure you that the complex about to be built by the U.S. Government on the Allenby base site, not far from the promenade on the line dividing East from West Jerusalem, will contain impressive and beautiful diplomatic buildings—the most beautiful in Jerusalem," Jerusalem Attorney Oren Persky, who represents the U.S. Government in the negotiations, told me yesterday. Persky confirmed having received a green light from the U.S. Government to promote the negotiations in the wake of the progress made in the peace process. A construction agreement will be also signed very soon, to be followed by the publication of tenders and a timetable for the beginning and conclusion of construction. The construction is expected to continue concurrently with the progress made in the permanent arrangement negotiations with the Palestinians.

As one of the main peace process sponsors, the United States may want to be well prepared for the most important stage of the process. The establishment of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem is therefore a symbolic and consequential phase in the international recognition of Israel's sovereignty in the city.

Rabin Aide on Failure To Invite 'Arafat to Ceremony

TA2510193094 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Oct 94

[Interview with Eytan Haber, director of the prime minister's bureau, by Yaron London at the site of the signing ceremony of the Israeli-Jordanian agreement in the 'Arava—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [London] Mr. Haber, political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen told us earlier about some exotic guests who will be attending the ceremony; however, one man will be conspicuous in his absence, and that man is Yasir 'Arafat. There have been all sorts of explanations, but all of them have been vague. What is the truth?

[Haber] We did not particularly look for guests. A large share of the cost of hosting the guests and the invitation of the guests fell to the Jordanians, and they are the ones who dealt with the issue.

I do not want to avoid the truth, however. This party, if it may be called that, is ours and Jordan's. Although the Palestinians have an interest, and perhaps even a stake, in what happens in Israel, we decided to focus this time on the relations with Jordan and to highlight them.

[London] So, the former Japanese deputy foreign minister and an Indonesian delegation were invited, but our close neighbor was not. This cannot but have a very weighty political significance.

[Haber] I assume and hope that we will be forgiven for it. [passage omitted]

Peres on Jordan Agreement, Syria, 'Arafat

TA2610080294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by anchorwoman Karmit Gay and correspondent Eytan Almog; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gay] Good morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Gay] With your permission, I would like to start our interview by quoting from Nahum Barne'a's column in this morning's issue of YEDI'OT AHARONOT. Barne'a writes that peace treaties are like marriage contracts. When everything is going smoothly, no one reads the fine print. The real test of the agreement with Jordan does not lie in its sublime formulation but in its regular maintenance. It will have to be oiled and serviced on a daily basis. How do we do this?

[Peres] There is a real difference between peace with Jordan and any of our previous experiences. Peace with Jordan is not just a ready-made peace, we will have to actually build it up from scratch. The intention of both the Jordanian and Israeli Governments is to take an entire geographical region—the 'Arava, which is a long and narrow strip of land that was previously a natural desert and a symbol of political hostility—and transform it into something completely new. We want to promote tourism, construct desalination plants, establish parks, and cultivate agriculture. We want to transform a god-forsaken desert into a place that will attract people to come to live and enjoy themselves. We seek to change not only the relationship between the Jordanians and ourselves but the very landscape itself.

[Almog] Sir, although all the festivities are taking place in southern Israel, our thoughts are focused on the north, toward Syria for example, which will apparently be one of President Clinton's key stops in the course of his Middle East tour. What are our expectations from this visit?

[Peres] First of all, I would like to explain what this visit may prevent. Since Syria is part of the circle of negotiations, it must also be included in the circle of visits. Had

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the President refrained from visiting Damascus, it would have signalled that we have despaired of the negotiations with Syria, and that is not the case. We definitely hope to reach a peace agreement with the Syrians, although this is coming along very slowly, in my opinion mainly due to hesitation in Syria rather than on our part. It is inconceivable for the Syrian president to think that the entire world has to square its positions with his, both with regard to the framework of negotiations, their opening, and the nature of the talks. Everyone is brilliant at negotiating with himself. There are political parties and people who think in such a manner; however, negotiations are based on the simple fact that there are two sides and two positions. Neither position can win out over the other, and both sides much meet each other half way.

[Almog] You say that the Syrians cannot be shunted aside, but you must have heard Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinians yesterday. For them it is a black day. They feel that they are about to lose Jerusalem to King Husayn.

[Peres] First of all, they can only lose something that they once had. Did they ever possess Jerusalem? What exactly do you mean by losing Jerusalem to Husayn? We are not handing over Jerusalem to King Husayn. Husayn has played a role in Jerusalem's holy sites, and Israel declared both in the framework of a formal agreement and through other channels that Husayn would retain this role with regard to Jerusalem's holy sites.

[Gay] Could you tell us once and for all why 'Arafat was not invited to today's ceremony? Did you also feel that he should not attend?

[Peres] I thought that there was room to consider his invitation; however, in my opinion 'Arafat was wrong to declare at a meeting of the Palestinian Authority [PA] on Sunday [23 October] that he would not come even if he were invited. You do not invite someone who has already refused to attend. That was his mistake.

[Gay] Was it just his mistake? Was there no prior intention not to invite him? Did not Jordan and Israel agree that he would not be invited?

[Peres] I do not know whether the matter was discussed, but I imagine that Jordan was not enthusiastic about his attending. Today's ceremony has two hosts, and clearly we had to coordinate things with Jordan as well as decide on our own position. However, I myself saw no point in inviting 'Arafat after I read that the PA had decided to decline the invitation.

[Almog] The PA and Jordan are not the best examples of democracy. Mr. Peres, how durable and stable do you consider the peace agreement we are signing today?

[Peres] It will be a very stable and durable peace because no one has any other alternative. Look, we cannot keep on running backwards. History does not move in reverse. All the assumptions generally accepted back when Israel was established—that it could be destroyed by military force, eliminated, or forced to capitulate—have been proven false. Forty-six years and five wars have proved this impossible. The world is changing; it is not standing in one place. In my opinion, we are all entering a new framework of international relations. I know that we will still have to run a gauntlet of gunfire, demonstrations, bomb attacks, and other terrible things before we break free, but it is already clear to everyone that things are shaping up in the right direction. The region's peoples and countries can forget about any other alternative. We are constantly asked whether Syria is the strongest country in the Middle East. In my opinion, the Middle East is more like a hospital than a boxing ring. There are no strong players here. There are countries that all need to be rehabilitated. Do we need more wars or weapons? Who will supply these weapons? Who will pay for them? All this is just outdated talk. I would like to repeat something I said yesterday in the Knesset: Israel has no interest in inciting tensions between the Palestinians and Jordan. I view this as a tragedy. Any argument, confrontation, or clash comes at the expense of all of us. We are making sincere efforts to establish peace between Israel and the Arab world and peaceful relations throughout the entire Middle East.

[Gay] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Peres.

Knesset Majority Approves Jordan Agreement

TA2610090094 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by Evelyn Gordon]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Knesset yesterday approved the peace agreement with Jordan by an overwhelming majority of 105 to three, with six abstentions.

The negative votes were from Moledet; the abstentions were Hanan Porat (National Religious Party) and Ari'el Sharon, Dov Shilansky, Mikha'el Eytan, Limor Livnat and Ron Nahman (Likud).

The 12-hour debate on the agreement, however, appeared to arouse little interest among the MKs [Knesset member]. Only about 65 MKs showed up for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's opening statement, and for much of the debate, a scant half-dozen MKs were present in the hall. At many points during the debate, no representative of the government was present. [passage omitted]

Likud Party chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, however—though also citing the defects—emphasized the positive.

"This is fundamentally a good agreement, an agreement that will bring peace," he said. "It does not entail territorial concessions...it doesn't entail bringing in foreign soldiers."

"The advantages of the agreement clearly outweigh its defects," he added.

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Representatives of HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the Arab Democratic Party were also unhappy with granting Jordan a special role in Jerusalem, since, they said, eastern Jerusalem belongs to the Palestinians, but they expressed general support for the pact.

Moledet was the only faction to come out explicitly against the treaty.

"We are for peace with the Arabs...but not at the price of land, water and control of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem," said the party's leader, Rehav'am Ze'evi.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who responded for the government at the end of the speeches, tried to calm some of the fears.

"The problem of the refugees will be solved only in a regional framework—not by upsetting Israel's demographic balance," he said.

"It is inconceivable that we would turn Jerusalem into Berlin," he continued. "No wall will be erected in Jerusalem.... It is the capital of Israel, under Israeli sovereignty...but there is no better way to resolve disputes (about religion)...than reliance on the status quo."

Likud's Qatzav Delivers Opposition Address

TA2510123094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew 0728 GMT 25 Oct 94

[Speech by Moshe Qatzav, chairman of Likud Knesset faction, at the opening of a special Knesset session convened to endorse the peace agreement with Jordan—live, speech is frequently interrupted by heckling from the floor]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Speaker, esteemed Knesset: We welcome the end of the state of belligerency and the signing of the peace treaty with Jordan. This agreement is of national and historic significance. Mr. Prime Minister, the sense of joy at the signing of this peace treaty is marred by the grave terrorist attacks perpetrated in Israel by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which is operating from Jordan. The attacks carried out over the last two weeks demonstrate that the state of war continues, and we still desire and yearn for a real and permanent peace. The attack in Jerusalem's Zion Square, the kidnapping near Ben-Gurion Airport, and the attack near Dizengoff Square demonstrate how palpable is the state of war between us and our enemies.

Mr. Prime Minister, over the past year, since the Oslo agreement, there has been a dramatic escalation in terrorist activity. Since 1967 we have not witnessed such a grave situation in the territories; an unprecedented level of firearms use by terrorists; a hitherto unfamiliar level of Israelis being murdered. Arabs can freely travel everywhere, Israel proper included, whereas Israelis cannot feel secure even in Dizengoff Square. Mr. Prime Minister, Hamas continues to agitate against Israel and is freely acting in Jordan, while Israel has not even demanded that King Husayn outlaw this brutal and cruel organization.

This agreement is meant to last for generations. The two sides will regularly return to review the various articles of the treaty in order to settle differences of opinion. Mr. Prime Minister, you dwelled on the advantages of the agreement, but today we also expected you to announce that united Jerusalem will remain under Israeli sovereignty without any changes. The prime minister promised King Husayn that Israel will honor the Hashemite Kingdom's special status at the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem. Mr. Prime Minister, the Jews are refraining from entering Temple Mount because of religious rather than political reasons, namely the ban of the Chief Rabbinate. Will this ban remain in effect for dozens of years to come? It is impossible to say. We have to take into consideration the possibility that at a certain stage Jews will want to enter Temple Mount. When giving an unlimited guarantee to Husayn regarding his status in the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, the prime minister was not thinking about some mosque in al-Shaykh Jarrah but to the al-Aqsa Mosque and Temple Mount.

Mr. Prime Minister, does the Jewish nation have any rights over or position concerning Temple Mount at the present time, will it have any such rights anytime in future? When Jews come to pray there, will the Jordanian Government wave this agreement and say that it has received special status over the Temple Mount.

[Responding to interjection by MK Darawshah] MK Darawshah, the Temple Mount is the holy of holies of the Jewish nation, not only of the Muslims.

Mr. Speaker, will the Jewish nation ever desire to pray in this holy of holies? Are we fated to limit our prayers to the Western Wall forever? Of course not. Worse, only a day before the signing of the peace agreement Jordanian Prime Minister al-Majali declared that Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine.

This is not the only thing, Mr. Speaker. The prime minister mentioned the border issue. We expected you, Mr. Prime Minister, to give special weight to the status of Jerusalem in presenting the peace treaty between us and Jordan, but you refrained from doing so. You can correct this in the course of the lengthy debate that is going on today.

Mr. Prime Minister, the treaty you signed or are going to sign tomorrow stipulates that the Jordan River is an administered [minhali] border between Jordan and the territory that came under IDF [Israel Defense Forces] control in 1967. You add that any dealings with regard to this line will not prejudice the status of this territory. [In response to partly inaudible interjection by Prime Minister Rabin on the international border in the agreement with Egypt] Yes, sir, but the same logic that applied to the Sinai areas and Rafah cannot apply to Judaea and

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Samaria. For years, Israeli Governments, including left-wing ones and that headed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, have declared that the Jordan River is the permanent and final border of the State of Israel. Why, Mr. Prime Minister, is this not reflected in the peace treaty with Jordan, unless you got cold feet and were scared once more by Yasir 'Arafat? You, who loudly declare opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state, are leaving Yasir 'Arafat this option.

There is more. In the agreement with Jordan, Israel recognizes the big problems the Middle East conflict has caused the refugees and displaced persons and undertakes to act to solve them on a bilateral basis. Again, for dozens of years we had claimed, sometimes out of tactical considerations—the question of whether this was wise is another matter altogether—that in addition to the Arab refugees, there are also Jewish refugees from Arab countries, and that the issue of refugee rehabilitation should be discussed in its entirety. Mr. Prime Minister, has King Husayn declared that he ever had Jewish refugees? After all, there have not been Jewish refugees in the kingdom across the Jordan River since 1948. If you talk about a bilateral solution to the problem of refugees pending between Israel and Jordan, then what you are talking about is not a refugee problem created in the war between Israel and Jordan after 1948. After all, Palestinians make up 60 percent of Jordan's population. There is only one meaning to this undertaking of yours, and it is not that Jordan will aid in rehabilitating Jewish refugees who were not across the Jordan River to begin with—we will surely make claims in this regard vis-a-vis Syria, just as we did vis-a-vis Egypt and, I hope, as we will vis-a- vis Iraq and others—but that the Israeli Government has undertaken a responsibility it should not have in assisting in the rehabilitation of those refugees for whose fate across the Jordan River we bear no responsibility. Moreover, the position that has been reiterated by all Israeli Governments—that the rehabilitation of refugees should be undertaken in those areas where they reside—was also erased from the peace treaty with Jordan.

I also wonder, Mr. Prime Minister, why the peace treaty allows King Husayn to introduce foreign forces under any circumstances other than those specifically detrimental to Israel's security. What are those circumstances that can harm Israel's security? Who will determine what circumstances, what conditions, and what scope—a formation or a brigade—should be involved? During the Gulf war, the Israeli Government announced that even if a single foreign soldier enters Jordanian territory from a third country, we would consider this a threat to Israel's security. The situation in Jordan is fragile, Mr. Prime Minister, and there are still fears concerning other Arab countries. This is the most delicate, fragile, and sensitive front in terms of Israel's security.

True, we should be interested, today of all days, in strengthening the Hashemite dynasty. A Palestinian state—if, God forbid, one is founded in Judaea and Samaria—will pose a danger to Israel's security and an even worse danger to the Jordanian kingdom. If you resign, Mr. Prime Minister, a Palestinian state may not be established. If you bring elections forward or if we succeed in toppling the government, a Palestinian state will not be established. If we win the elections, a Palestinian state will not emerge. If, God forbid, you win the next elections, then it can be stated with certainty that a Palestinian state will indeed emerge in Judaea and Samaria, and this will pose a real danger to Israel's existence and, even more so, to the Hashemite dynasty, as I have just said. Moreover, if you pursue this policy or if you and your government continue to serve, you may bring about a situation that we will mourn for generations to come, a situation in which a Palestinian state will emerge not only in Judaea and Samaria but also on both sides of the Jordan River. A Palestinian state will be established both across the Jordan River and in Judaea and Samaria, and this is a proven recipe for instability and the undermining of peace between Israel and the Arab states.

The Jewish state, in fact....[pauses] If the agreement is endorsed today, we are in fact going toward implementing the concept of territorial compromise with the Arab people. This should be the historic compromise: East of the Jordan River belongs to the Arab nation, while the area west of the Jordan River, in its entirety, should be under the Jewish people's control, and no foreign sovereignty should be allowed to exist west of the Jordan River. It will be the status of Judaea and Samaria that will decide the fate of peace in the Middle East, whether stability reigns or whether, God forbid, wars break out. If you hand Judaea and Samaria over to the PLO, there will be no peace or stability, and the Hashemite dynasty will eventually disappear. Many additional tremors are expected, Mr. Speaker. We should confront terror and radical Islam. If terror prevails, Jordan will disappear along with the peace treaty. We must not exhibit weakness but rather determination and resolve.

Today we are in fact giving up, in real terms, past dreams about a greater Israel. Big changes are taking place, in the Arab world as well, but do not make a mistake, ladies and gentlemen, members of the Knesset: This is not a revolution. Those of you who heard the prime minister and foreign minister praising the processes East Europe and the communist bloc underwent must not delude yourselves. These processes are not taking place in the Arab world. Look what happens in Algeria, Egypt, and even Jordan when even the smallest amount of democracy is allowed. You must remain alert and exercise caution, because otherwise we may find ourselves in very grave difficulties. The present century has been one of upheavals and changes, and we hope we can end the prolonged, bloody conflict between the Jewish and Arab nations.

Mr. Speaker, the signing of the peace treaty tomorrow is the fruit of efforts invested by Israeli Governments since the inception of the state. Cooperation between Israel and Jordan, which has been going on over the last decade as well and also included the security sphere—cooperation that was sometimes even better than that with Egypt—all the way from Camp David until the

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Madrid Conference, was the element which led to the signing of the peace treaty tomorrow. It is thanks to the dead soldiers that we can sign the peace treaty. All of the land of our country, Mr. Speaker, is saturated with the blood of the fallen. It is with their blood that the peace treaty will be signed tomorrow. It is undoubtedly a historic moment in the annals of the Jewish nation. It is another stage in the victory of the Zionist idea. It is another stage in materializing the dream of the return to Zion. It is another stage in the integration of the State of Israel in the Middle East region. It is another stage in the establishment of peace. We will support the signing of the peace treaty with Jordan, and we are certain, Mr. Speaker....[interrupted by remarks by Moledet's Rehav'am Ze'evi criticizing the treaty] Despite the shortcomings, the reservations, and the difficulties inherent in the treaty, we welcome the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan.

Katyusha Rockets Land in North

TA2610110294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1035 GMT 26 Oct 94

[Telephone talk between anchorman Me'ir Einstein and correspondent Yo'av Aviv; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Einstein] We hoped that today would pass quietly, but we have just heard a report from northern Israel regarding a katyusha rocket attack. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv is here with the details:

[Aviv] Several minutes ago, katyusha rockets landed in northern Israel. We are prevented at this time from specifying the exact location where the katyushas landed. The katyusha rockets landed in Israeli territory. There have been no reports on casualties or damage so far. Searches are currently under way. SLA [South Lebanese Army] and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] artillery are currently shelling locations north of south Lebanon's security zone from where the katyushas were launched.

This morning katyusha rockets landed in the security zone's eastern sector. The terrorists fired at the al-Ghazalah and Sujud areas. The SLA and IDF shelled terrorist targets in retaliation. [passage omitted]

[Einstein] Have Israel's northern residents been ordered to enter shelters?

[Aviv] Not yet. The incident only took place a short while ago. Anyone who heard the explosions has probably entered the shelters. We will soon learn exactly how the IDF intends to react.

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King Speaks on Past, Future Ties With Israel

On Reaching 'Happy Conclusion'

TA2510165294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Oct 94 pp 2, 3, 5

["Special" interview with King Husayn by Smadar Peri at the al-Nadwah Palace in Amman on 24 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dressed in a gray suit and with a warm and charming smile on his face, King Husayn opened the door of a small room at the al-Nadwah Palace in Amman yesterday afternoon and invited me for a two-hour talk around a round table.

Behind his armchair hung four pictures of him clad in a pilot's suit. There were pictures of his grandfather, King 'Abdallah, on small coffee tables. The king frequently mentioned King 'Abdallah's secret contacts with Israel, contacts he himself pursued later on.

The Jordanian king has a hearty laugh, and he laughs often. He is very relaxed and creates a pleasant atmosphere around himself. He smiled at me and thanked me for a white shirt I sent him three years ago with the word "Shalom" in Hebrew and in Arabic. Now, at long last, we met.

The palace staff address him as "Sidi" ("Sir"). The king proves to be very informal. This is the first time he has agreed to talk about his secret meetings with Israeli leaders. He seems to be very fond of Prime Minister Rabin and, mainly, to trust his word. In contrast, when Yasir 'Arafat's name comes up, the king's face clouds over. His glum grimace cannot be ignored. " 'Arafat is our problem and yours," he blurts out, wringing his hands.

The king had returned from touring a Jordanian Army unit a few hours before he met with me and my colleague, the American journalist Judith Miller, in the palace. The Army was and remains the power base and backbone of the longest ruling king in the world. Our meeting took place two days before the signing of the peace treaty. The king sought to create a climate befitting of what he described as "the special peace that will prevail between Israel and Jordan."

[Peri] As you sat with Yitzhaq Rabin on one side and Shim'on Peres on the other and worked out the final details of the peace treaty, what was going through your head during those long hours?

[Husayn] The thought that kept going through my head was that this treaty would be the crowning success of my life. It was the feeling of a man close to success, a success that will go beyond his lifetime. My grandfather, the founder of the dynasty, wanted to achieve that, but he did not live to change the life of the people from the reality that existed at the time to life as it should be. My grandfather did not live to witness the new dawn that is now rising over both the Jordanians and the Israelis, and perhaps—so I hope—over our entire region.

So, these were the thoughts that were running through my head, not just in those moments when I sat with Rabin and Peres to conclude the agreement but from the beginning of our negotiations. Contrary to many who had doubts from the very outset, I kept saying all the time that we were making progress. What we ultimately attained is an achievement of which we are proud. On both sides equally, in our country and in yours, it looks like a success in many areas: land, water, and all issues pertaining to our mutual cooperation.

I believe we are on the verge of a new era, which will pose a challenge. We are approaching that phase, which I believe also enjoys vast support in Israel. I know that the vast majority of Jordanians also accept this agreement with pride, confidence, faith, and exhilaration, as well as with anxiety.

As soon as it became possible to launch these negotiations, we approached them seriously and we kept to the path that led to the culmination of our efforts in a peace treaty. We did not try to avoid or sidestep a treaty. Therefore, as soon as we were able to tread this path, we were on the king's road. Moreover, it was the duty of the two leaders, Rabin and myself, to meet and see exactly on what basis we would be operating and how far we would be able to get with determination and confidence. Thanks to determination and confidence, we reached this happy conclusion.

[Peri] Your Majesty, what do you expect from the State of Israel and the Israeli people in order to solidify the peace treaty?

[Husayn] My expectations from the Israelis are exactly the same as my expectations from the Jordanian people, my family, and my Kingdom: to examine all the possibilities that the future holds in store for us and to leave the past behind. I believe we are at the beginning of an expanding circle. It reminds me of my ability, both in the near and the distant past, to see the human face of the other side. I think this is what is happening now to our two peoples. I am sure all those who are worried will find that the future is full of promise, and this will set an example for all our successors.

[Peri] Could peace between Jordan and Israel have been attained in the past?

[Husayn] In my opinion, many opportunities were missed in the past. At the same time, we could not have reach a full peace arrangement, because each of us shouldered a responsibility. In my case, it was the Palestinian people and the pan-Arab support the Palestinians attained in the Rabat conference in 1974. Since then, we tried to help time after time. At times we managed to provide the Palestinians with an umbrella under which they could speak for themselves about their

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rights to their land and about the events occurring in the region and the whole world.

We always took care to place the Palestinian problem before our own. Then Egypt marched toward peace, and later the Palestinians made their move. We all started from the same point in Madrid. Therefore, after the others succeeded in solving their problems with Israel, the time came to look at our own, at Jordan's cause, and it was very important to us to negotiate with Israel as equals.

[Peri] In the past, was Israel responsible for a missed opportunity to make peace with Jordan?

[Husayn] To the extent that it depended on us, Jordan, when it recognized UN Security Council Resolution 242 in 1967, was already prepared to make peace with you, at least as far as I am concerned. I myself was prepared to end the state of belligerency, but unfortunately we were unable to implement this until recently. Once we reached that point, we enthusiastically entered dynamic and intensive negotiations.

[Peri] In other words, what you are saying is that Israel could have attained a peace treaty with Jordan since 1967 and that such an opportunity was missed.

[Husayn] I feel that if there were mistakes, they were made by both sides, and both sides must take responsibility for what happened through the years. I suggest that henceforth, we look at the future. I always hoped and prayed that history will judge me favorably and do me justice long after I leave this world. I truly hope that in my lifetime, I have done my share for the sake of my people, and that when I am gone, I will be bequeathing them the future they deserve.

[Peri] Your Excellency, when did it actually become clear to you that you were prepared to make peace with Israel? Is there a specific date?

[Husayn] Since 1967, we supported every resolution and every effort to attain peace.

[Peri] Perhaps we could use this occasion to hear your version of the London agreement. The impression we got in Israel is that that was the moment when you and our then Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres almost reached an understanding that was supposed to lead to a peace treaty, which is the situation we are in now. Do you have any hard feelings about the aftermath of the London agreement?

[Husayn] I have mixed feelings, not unequivocal ones, about that event, but that all belongs in the past.

[Peri] Did you not despair afterward or want to give up on the peace efforts?

[Husayn] There was such a moment, but I decided to go on trying, to go on hoping. I must admit that the fact that Egypt and the Palestinians took a step forward helped me a lot.

[Peri] For 40 years you met secretly with all Israeli leaders. You maintained a secret dialogue with them but did not attain peace. What was the purpose of those meetings?

[Husayn] The purpose of all our contacts was to understand whom we were dealing with and to look for opportunities and possibilities to bridge the gaps and overcome the obstacles. This was the reason for the meetings in the past. I do not believe there was any other way to solve our outstanding problems in those days.

[Peri] Those meetings were always held under a shroud of secrecy but, at the same time, we in Israel knew and read about them.

[Husayn] What can I say? I stuck to my commitment to keep them secret. The understanding on our side was that nobody would talk about the meetings and that they would be an opportunity to exchange views, look for solutions, and make sure that delicate issues were dealt with. If somebody talked or leaked, it was not on our side. We have nothing to say about the leaks. We promised to maintain secrecy.

[Peri] You met with almost all of Israel's leaders. Were you disappointed by any of them?

[Husayn] There were many disappointments. In fact, the disappointments continued until recently. I am very glad we have reached the point we are at now.

[Peri] Of all the Israelis with whom you met, who impressed you the most with his commitment to peace?

[Husayn] If we are talking about what is happening now, I feel great appreciation—and I believe it is mutual—for Prime Minister Rabin. He helped us focus on the real problems.

[Peri] The impression we get is that a very special relationship has emerged between Your Excellency and Prime Minister Rabin. How do you view this relationship?

[Husayn] I think this is a relationship based on a mutual commitment to peace and to the future of our peoples. We respect each other, and we see eye to eye on the goal. These facts helped us solve problems, overcome difficulties, and reach the happy ending.

[Peri] You have known Rabin for many years.

[Husayn] Yes. Over the years, I did my best to learn as much as possible about the leaders and senior officials in this region. I always tried to put myself in their shoes and imagine their point of view.

Let us go back in time to two years ago. I fell sick then (with cancer—author's note) and went to the United States for medical treatment. I did not know what would happen. Everything was in the hands of God. When I returned, I got a reception I had not expected in terms of the warmth, emotions, and excitement of my people, the

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people in whose service I have worked my whole life. I could not be oblivious to the warmth that had developed between me and my people in those years when we struggled against common difficulties, went through tough experiences, and were afraid together.

Suddenly, they were scared of what would happen if I disappeared. It was fear of the unknown, a sense of insecurity. I had to do all I could to get well, and I succeeded. I am very happy and proud to announce that I did my duty, not just toward my people in Jordan but also toward all the peoples in the region and toward the future of the region.

[Peri] Yes, I remember very well your speech on television when you returned from the United States after undergoing surgery. You seemed very emotional, and people in Israel were also worried about your health.

[Husayn] I was very touched by all the letters of support I received, including from Israel.

[Peri] What sort of peace should we expect?

[Husayn] I think it will be a special kind of peace. There will be no international police forces or U.S. units on our border, and one must remember that we share the longest border. Furthermore, we share many common problems and challenges. I think it will be a very "warm" peace, which will enable us to exploit the talents and abilities of people in both countries. It will take time, but the future harbors many possibilities and hopes.

[Peri] Israel is currently experiencing a wave of terror by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. A branch of Hamas operates in Jordan.

[Husayn] It is Jordan's responsibility. We will do our best not to have any operations from Jordanian territory. When Jordan takes upon itself a mission, it carries it out as best as it can. We will see how matters develop. We know how to deal with such problems.

[Peri] I suppose you know that you are very popular in Israel.

[Husayn] I was very touched by what I heard on this subject.

[Peri] Are you not risking your life by signing a peace treaty with Israel?

[Husayn] I believe that the life of every man has a beginning and an end. It is not in our hands. It is not something that can be planned. What does a man fear? A man is afraid of himself, of another man, or of God. I am only afraid of God and of my conscience. No person in the world will scare me or stop me from doing my duty to my people and my conscience.

[Peri] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad described the leasing of Jordanian land to Israel, as stipulated in the peace treaty, by the Muslim term for "heresy."

[Husayn] No person in the world will tell me what Islam is or what my faith is. Let them show me where it is written that Islam is against peace and coexistence between nations. When I hear such criticism from a fellow Arab leader, I say that I would first expect him to read the agreement and only later to criticize, if at all. Besides, the agreement is our own business. We made it with a clean conscience and with pride. We made certain all our rights were restored.

[Peri] Without you, will Jordan be strong enough to preserve your achievements and to withstand the pressure that will be exerted on it?

[Husayn] I believe everything will prevail after I am gone.

[Peri] You were the only leader in the Arab world who issued passports to the Palestinians.

[Husayn] That is correct, and they will continue to enjoy all rights because they are part of this family, the Jordanian family, until the moment comes when they have another choice. We will not abandon or forsake the Palestinians. We will continue to live together. We were always one family, and we will continue to be. Under no circumstances whatsoever will I let anyone sow dissent between us at this stage.

[Peri] How do you picture Israel?

[Husayn] It is a "mirror image" of our country: a common history, mistakes both we and you made which led us, the two sons of Abraham, members of the same family, to a conflict which engendered mutual suffering and tragic waste. Israelis and Jordanians have a lot in common. We share the same worries, suffering, suspiciousness, problems—all these are things which I hope will disappear and vanish in the near future. I believe this is the time to bridge differences and look ahead.

[Peri] To us, you were always "the good neighbor...."

[Husayn] I definitely hope that our relations will develop along such lines, which already existed in the past.

[Peri] Is there any specific person in Israel you would like to meet?

[Husayn] For obvious reasons, I would not like to mention names. When the time comes—and I hope it will be soon—there will be many opportunities to meet.

[Peri] Do you plan to visit Jerusalem soon?

[Husayn] I certainly hope to visit Israel, and not in the distant future; however, a date for a visit has not yet been set.

[Peri] In your assessment, has the time finally come when Israel is an acceptable and integral part of the Middle East?

[Husayn] I think so. But beyond that, a great deal depends on what we do from now on. We have not yet

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attained all that we are truly capable of accomplishing. We are only at the very beginning. This is the onset of a new era, an era of peace, and the way we nurture our relations will be very significant.

I very much hope that our relations will be based on self-respect and that we will wisely combine the qualities and potential of the peoples in the two countries and extract the most from them.

[Peri] You are the longest ruling leader in the world. You have been the king of Jordan for 41 years. What was the toughest moment during your rule?

[Husayn] The 1967 war (the Six-Day War), the war in 1970 ("Black September," against the Palestinians), and the years in between.

[Peri] Were you the "high-ranking secret envoy" who warned Prime Minister Golda Meir about the Yom Kippur War 10 days before it started?

[Husayn] I did not warn Golda Meir; that is simply not true. I was also surprised then, like all the others, by the outbreak of hatred and hostility.

[Peri] Are you optimistic about the chances of President al-Asad reaching an agreement with Israel? Did you meet with him or send him an envoy on the eve of the signing of the peace agreement with Israel?

[Husayn] I did not see him before the signing. I saw him before I traveled to the ceremony in Washington. The understanding was that we would move forward toward peace, but that did not happen. Perhaps President al-Asad has a lot of time on his hands, and he can afford to take his time.

Unfortunately—and I said as much many times in my talks with leaders of the Arab world—there was no real coordination between myself and al-Asad, although Jordan sought it. We were not the ones who objected to such coordination. On the contrary, we were interested in coordination on an equal footing in order to attain a specific goal. Unfortunately, this has not happened to this day. Therefore, in view of the circumstances that evolved, we moved forward in order to realize our rights.

[Peri] Did you consult any of the Arab leaders when you knew that Jordan and Israel would be signing a peace treaty?

[Husayn] I did not tell or consult anyone. I certainly did not ask for permission. I did what I thought was right.

[Peri] Would this agreement have been possible without the Americans?

[Husayn] The Americans played a very important role, but most of the work we did ourselves.

[Peri] I watched you, Your Excellency, on the White House lawn and in Congress, alongside Rabin. There were tears in your eyes.

[Husayn] I am not ashamed of my tears. They were natural. Did you not feel the same at that moment? This is my answer to your question.

Calls Treaty 'Crowning Achievement'

JN2510200794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1805 GMT 25 Oct 94

[Interview with King Husayn by unidentified ABC correspondent; place and date not given—recorded, in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Correspondent] I suppose my first question is to ask you to reach a bit far. What do you think your grandfather would think about the peace?

[Husayn] I believe that my grandfather wil be content and happy, and I believe that he was close to something, probably far better than what has happened to this region since his loss. He did not live to fulfill his hopes and dreams, and as far as I am concerned I am as happy as I could be. This is a crowning achievement of all the years of toil and work, and in the service of Jordan and its people and its cause and the people of this region.

[Correspondent] I realize it's hindsight, and even second guessing, but you must be frustrated that it did not come earlier or couldn't have been made possible earlier?

[Husayn] I believe that the history of this problem has been one of many lost opportunities. But, in all of that, I believe we put the Palestinian cause, the Arab cause ahead of ours until such time as each different element in this equation began to try to resolve their own problems. I believe that the speed with which we have achieved our objective and the efficiency is an indication that it could have happened a long time ago had we taken a different approach.

[Correspondent] And why? What was the failing earlier, do you think?

[Husayn] I think the failing earlier throughout the tragic history of this region in the past, and we are now looking into the future, was the lack of ability of vision amongst leaders in this entire region. I think the Palestinians suffered from that. I think the Arabs suffered from that. I believe that the Cold War may have had an impact on the area. A whole variety of reasons caused us to lose so many opportunities and chances. But, finally, we are there.

[Correspondent] I think what impresses a lot of people at the moment is the speed with which this final chapter was written, or this final hundred yards was run. How did you manage to get it done so quickly at the end? Was it pressure of history?

[Husayn] As far as I am concerned, there was a compelling and continuous pressure within me to do whatever could be done. But, I believe that, on the other hand, the Israelis and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin personally felt the same way. So, it wasn't a question of the

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moment, of balance of power, of this or that, or the other. It had to be something that was balanced in every way, that caused both sides to feel that they have won everything they wished and are embarking on a new future. I believe that the negotiations paved the way but, in the final analysis, there was need for the shepherds of the process since Washington to meet, and we did have several meetings, and they were fruitful, and so we pushed things as they should have been pushed, and we've arrived where we wished to arrive.

[Correspondent] I would like to try to capture a little bit of what's in your heart and I'm not quite sure how. When you called her majesty or when you told the family what had happened, how did you express yourself?

[Husayn] I said I have some wonderful news. We have made it. And it was early in the morning after a long night where we went through everything that had been agreed upon and we modified and adjusted things to the point where we achieved mutual satisfaction. And I felt on top of the world, really, both then and now.

[Correspondent] Can we talk a little bit about the specifics of the deal? In many cases, Israel is giving back what was Jordan's. What do you think Jordan gets most from the deal?

[Husayn] First of all, as far as the territorial aspect is concerned, we have gotten 100 percent of our demands. The equation was that there would not be a centimeter missing from the territories of either side. In the north, it was not a problem. The area adjacent to the West Bank is something that we are not talking about because it is something for the future to resolve itself, in time, over that dimension. But as far as the south was concerned, we never had a border on the ground. We had the British mandate plans and maps. So there, we recovered all the territory that we lost and in addition to that, water is available now and that is a very critical area as well. But these are two aspects. The rest of it is a complete peace between these two countries that have not seen it, not lived it, not enjoyed it, not endured it for any length of time in the past. This is something new and I think that the chances are for a fresh beginning for cooperation as might have been imagined by some but not really put to the test. In the future, it will be a warm, constructive peace here and I hope that it will be a (?sure) peace for others in this region.

[Correspondent] President al-Asad of Syria, as you know, is quite critical of the lease back arrangement you've reached with the Israelis by which Israeli settlers remain on Jordanian territory. What do you tell him?

[Husayn] I tell him it's none of his business, with all due respect. This is a Jordanian matter and I hope that he will be able to address his own dimension of his responsibilities as well. But there is nothing of which we are ashamed. Nothing over which we are concerned in the least. We have returned our sovereignty over every inch of our territory and that is the way it stands. So, I was really surprised that people began to make comments before even reading the text of the treaty.

[Correspondent] As you know, sir, in the Kingdom, it's been psychologically difficult for some people. Many Palestinians who live here, to whom you gave citizenship, now know pretty much that they're never going see their homes again. How do you explain that to those people who are not as enthusiastic as you?

[Husayn] In two ways. In the first instance, I would say that the responsibility regarding the occupied West Bank was taken away from us by a Palestinian demand and by Arab support in 1974 totally despite the fact that we tried our very very best to reach the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 and then leave people to decide what they wished. So, the problem, as I see it there, is one of Palestinians assuming their responsibilities regarding questions of Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil.

We will support and help in any way we can. We have done more than any in this entire area. We have been affected by this tragedy more than any. And in the meantime, what we are saying is that all of us, here in Jordan, are Jordanians with equal rights until such time as there is a chance for an opportunity for anyone within this family to choose otherwise and then when they are perfectly capable of doing so given that chance.

[Correspondent] What are the factors on the horizon that worry you. Let me just tick off some of them: economic domination by Israel?

[Husayn] No worry, whatsoever. I think we have an educated, well-prepared people, very industrious people. What we have achieved with very little over the years is testimony enough for our ability to deal with any future development and to be partners in shaping a new Middle East in the times ahead.

[Correspondent] Other countries that have the ability to squeeze you on the question of water, to hold back as you had held back in the past, water you need for development?

[Husayn] Well, regarding Jordan and Israel, I believe we have resolved this problem so far but regard to the subject of water in terms of the comprehensive peace, we have a lot due us more in the future, and I hope we will get that. But in any event, up to this moment, we haven't. And this is nothing new. I think that a lot of Jordanian rights in water have been denied Jordan over many many years.

[Correspondent] Muslim extremism?

[Husayn] Muslim extremism. I am a true Muslim, and I know what my religion is, and I know what my faith is, and I know it is entirely different to what some choose to portray as Islam. If there are elements that are willing to ride the way for political gains, and I believe they are taken aback by what has happened, the forecast was

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nothing would happen. We wouldn't get our water, we wouldn't get our land. And in four year's time, and this was at the very beginning of this process, the situation in Jordan would be so intolerable that they may have a chance to change things. Well, I think the skeptics have been caught off guard. I believe the overwhelming majority of Jordanians know that this is in their interest, and feel that they have given more to the Arab cause and the Palestinian cause than any. And we have no worries beyond that. Apart from that, we have the National Charter, we have the Constitution. The National Charter was charted by people representing all schools of political life here. And so it is a question of the few here and there. They could create problems, I suppose.

[Correspondent] There are extremists in the region who do not like the way history is being written at this moment by you and the Israelis and even to some extent by the chairman of the PLO Yasir 'Arafat. How seriously should their determination to disrupt all this be taken?

[Husayn] I think that any one in a position of responsibility and people in Jordan, I hope, will take this seriously. And the only answer I can give you is that one has to fear something in life. I fear God, I do not fear man, and I fear my conscience above everything else, and I am fulfilling my duty towards my people. I believe I have the overwhelming support of the Jordanian people.

Says 'We are on Our Way'

JN2510212894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1850 GMT 25 Oct 94

[Speech by King Husayn during meeting with senior Armed Forces, Public Security, Intelligence Service, and Public Security officers on 25 October; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] We were at the forefront, and we will, with God's help, always remain at the forefront. When the brothers chose to go their own way, we had to take care of our own affairs and business. When we took and crystallized our position and dealt with all the facts on that basis, we were alone, true men who seek only the pleasure of God Almighty and who are motivated by the feelings of fulfilling a duty toward the good people of this country—young and old; men, women, and children—and their future and present. In the meantime, you remain the homeland's shield, fence, and protectors.

I do not wish to discuss what I have mentioned before, including yesterday during a meeting with some of our and your brothers-in-arms in a very important position of our beloved homeland. However, I wish to say that we are facing immense challenges which dictate that each one of us should do all he can in the next stage to ensure success and to ensure that we arrive at our goals and objectives.

When the peace treaty goes into effect on this long borderline, the longest borderline [between any Arab country and Israel] abidance to one's word and abidance to all its meanings will not be observed by UN forces, U.S. forces, or forces from any part of the world. We ourselves will stand on our borderline and on our soil to fulfill our duty to protect the land and to give the commitment its true meaning and content in terms of abiding by everything we pledge, with God's help.

When the mine fields and barbed wires are removed, and when we move to our new positions on our territory, we must rise up to the level of responsibility and the duty, and, with God's help, we will do so.

We must be vigilant. I am certain that the overwhelming majority of the people support peace, life, and hope, and support the fulfillment of the duty toward generations to come on this good land.

In our country we have democracy, shura, and respect for human rights. We always learn and move forward. All these must be elements of strength and not weakness, and, God willing, they will always remain elements of strength.

We live in a country in which the minority must respect the will of the majority, a country in which we formulated the National Charter, a country that has the Jordanian Constitution, a country that has shura and democracy, a country that has a living people. We must be aware in all cases, and now more than ever before, of our duties in the coming phase.

There is, I believe, a small minority, which is against peace and life; which only wants to cry, weep, and see black things in life; and which always keeps a grim face. They may have their own line and trend. I believe that the bet was that Jordan will not get any of its rights, will not regain its territory, will not exercise its sovereignty over its soil, and will not take its share of the waters, which is the right of this people and land. Consequently, they thought, why don't we wait in this whirlpool two, three, or four years to see further feelings of despair among people, further poverty, further deprivation, and then, some may be able to achieve their goals and objectives. The opposite had happened, thank God, and thanks to the efforts, awareness, and faithfulness of all and thanks to the commitment by all to defend this country, its rights, its soil, and its waters and the rights of this people, now and in all circumstances. [passage omitted]

Our responsibilities at this stage and in the next stages are big. We ask God to grant us success in performing our duty as best we can. We will stay up late and work hard. We will stand against any party which tries to harm this country, which is the heart and conscience of the great Arab homeland, and which was and will continue to be the first among the Arabs who believe in the inevitability of us reaching our goals and objectives and who are determined to build on this land, through

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minds, hard work, faith, perseverance, and persistence, the model for the brothers throughout the great homeland.

My thanks to all of you and my pride in you is limitless so long as I live as one of you. The strength of this country does not depend on just one person. The strength of this country and the reason behind its steadfastness lies in your maturity and the fact that all of us are partners in shouldering responsibility and performing our duty.

With God's help, the future will be promising. We are waging a new kind of battle. We waged many battles and faced many challenges of one kind. Hence, it is sometimes difficult for us to think and adjust ourselves to what peace could present in terms of opportunities and what it could provide in terms of possibilities to prepare a lifestyle and to reach something which is the right of any human being, especially the human being in this country.

However, God willing, we are on our way. God willing, the results will be good and God willing, it will be the start of a turning point in the right direction for our Arab nation and our great homeland. God willing, heads will always remain high and will not bow for anyone but Almighty God.

Peace is the language of the people in heaven. Peace is one of God's names. Some might say that peace is against their creed. They might say that it is against their political creed and against their fundamentalist goals and objectives in that it deprives the people of their rights in this life. However, peace is basically a part of our religion and faith. We pray to God that the time will not come when some of us reach a degree of imbalance and thus believe they can teach us our religion which descends from our forefathers, ancestors, and our Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him. It is now our duty to defend our faith and to stand against all the ugly images they are trying to portray to this world about our Islam and faith.

Afghanistan, the tragedy of tragedies, and the daily reports about the acts of killing, destruction, and sabotage. Real Islam could have yielded a totally different result. We call on God to guide our brothers on the right path. The United States' partners and allies in Afghanistan, which has turned into rubble, cannot teach us our religion, our faith, and our Islam. With the help of God, we will teach people about right and truth. We are also responsible for defending our tolerant faith and religion and our beliefs in all circumstances and about everything in our lives.

Here, I hope, and I do not generalize, most people have goodness in them and most people are guided by emotions and kindness. However, there are extremely dangerous junctures to which we should all pay utmost attention.

In any case, this is a new and promising stage and Jordan will tomorrow welcome its guests from all parts of the world who are coming to bless its achievement, and to show appreciation for the stand of its men. The prestige this country enjoys worldwide is by far bigger than the area of our beloved and cherished land. I am confident that on this occasion, Jordan will show its Arab face, and will reflect the Arab character in all circumstances and events. [passage omitted]

With respect to the Hashemites in the future, the issue is one of leadership, duty, history, and the same fate we have had since the beginning.

There is another dimension on which I will focus in the not too distant future, to secure an advanced pattern of life that could be the closest to shura and our Arab and Islamic traditions. I will work to form a council for the Hashemite family here. I will work so that all the sons of al-Husayn Bin-'Ali will be qualified after me and my brother al-Hasan, the apple of my eye, to choose the fittest from among them to assume the responsibilities and perform the duties in the future in accordance with what they agree and choose. Thus, they will constantly choose the best and the fittest after me and after my brother al-Hasan. There will be a democratic monarchy that will be as close as can be to what was known in early Islam.

Thanks be to God, as a family, we are above differences, above material things, and above the problems that may arise because God Almighty has honored us by making us belong to the household of the prophet, may God's peace and mercy be upon yhim. This compensates for everything in this life. (passage omitted]

Islamic Deputies, Others Denounce Peace Treaty

NC2510164494 Paris AFP in English 1623 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By Acil Tabbara]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Oct 25 (AFP)—The minority Islamic fundamentalist bloc in parliament on Tuesday [25 October] denounced what it called the humiliating Jordan-Israel peace treaty to be signed on Wednesday.

Hamzah Mansur of the Islamic Action Front, which has 16 seats in the 80-seat assembly, called on the government to "renounce this humiliating treaty, otherwise we will urge deputies to demand its resignation."

Some 300 demonstrators, including opposition party leaders and trade unionists, meanwhile held a sit-in outside government buildings here Tuesday to protest the treaty.

The group, which responded to a call by the Islamic opposition, held placards supporting "the armed struggle in the occupied territories."

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Speaking at a news conference here, Mansur said the planned leasing of Jordanian territory to Israel under the terms of the treaty was "anti-constitutional."

Mansur urged the parliament not to ratify the treaty when it is presented to it on Saturday, but most deputies support King Husayn's bid for peace.

"Deputies must withdraw their confidence in a government which does not respect the constitution," he added.

The coordination on security matters envisaged by the treaty would make the Jordanian security forces "serve the Zionist entity," Mansur said, adding that Jordan would now be open to drugs and AIDS, "since Israeli tourists cannot live without such filth."

In an open letter to US President Bill Clinton, who will attend the signing ceremony on the Israeli-Jordanian border Wednesday, the hardline deputies said "you are giving your blessing to treaties signed by leaders in the region and not their peoples, so this peace you are sponsoring is only temporary."

A religious decree issued by Jordanian shaykhs and distributed at the news conference vowed that "jihad (holy war) is the only way to free Palestine."

The Islamic Action Front, which represents the Muslim Brotherhood in parliament, earlier announced it would boycott Clinton's speech before parliament Wednesday.

Ishaq Farhan, secretary-general of the Islamic Action Front, told AFP the peace treaty "does not affect the Jordanian people," who would "fight against normalisation with the Jews."

Opposition parties called for a demonstration to be held in Amman Wednesday during Clinton's visit, but the authorities banned such a protest, Farhan said.

The historic peace treaty sweeping away 46 years of hostility is to be signed by Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and his Israeli counterpart Yitzhaq Rabin at a ceremony in the Wadi Araba attended by 5,000 dignitaries.

Around 700 Islamic students at the University of Jordan Monday vowed to undermine the pact, burned Israeli and US flags and chanted anti-Jewish slogans.

IAF Deputies To Boycott Ceremony

JN2510204094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Deputy Hamzah Mansur, spokesman for the Islamic Action Front [IAF], has held a news conference on behalf of the opposition parties.

[Begin recording] [Jordan Television correspondent Hani Shawtar] As IAF deputies, if the [Jordanian-Israeli] agreement is debated at the House of Representatives in the form of a draft law and if it is endorsed by the majority, will you abide by the opinion of the House majority that endorses this agreement?

[Mansur] We will insist on our opposition to this agreement even if it is endorsed by 63 deputies. This is because the agreement conflicts with our religion and political constants. Our opposition to the agreement will continue to be democratic. If we do not manage, through the parliamentary institution, to foil this treaty, we will use all democratic means on the popular level in order to topple it.

Stemming from these convictions and in affirmation of our position rejecting the agreement, we announce that we will boycott the treaty signing ceremony in Wadi al-'Arabah. We will also boycott U.S. President Bill Clinton's address to the House of Representatives on the evening of Wednesday 26 October 1994. We demand our colleague deputies to stand alongside us in this boycott. [end recording] [passage omitted]

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Hizballah Asked To Keep 'Quiet' During Clinton Visit

TA2610093394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Syria has asked the leaders of Hizballah to keep the situation quiet in south Lebanon during President Clinton's visit to the region.

Our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv received this information from Lebanese sources. The sources noted that the Syrians made the request at meetings held in Damascus over the past few days with a delegation of Hizballah officials led by Hasan Nasrallah, the organization's secretary general. The Hizballah leaders met in Damascus with the commander of the Syrian Army in Lebanon and top Syrian intelligence officials.

Need For Israel To Meet Peace Requirements Seen

JN2510171894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Just and comprehensive peace is Syria's strategic option, or it is the strategy that expresses Syria's national interests, its pan-Arab principles, and its respect for international legitimacy and its resolutions. Syria's honest endeavor to achieve just and comprehensive peace opened the way for the Madrid conference, which, in turn, served as a term of reference and basis from which the peace process was launched in order to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 calling for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from southern Lebanon, the occupied Golan and Arab territories.

The Madrid conference served as a starting point for the peace process under international auspices, represented originally by the United States and the Soviet Union and later by the Russian Federation. It appears this was not so in Israel's view, which refused, during the Shamir government's era, to attend the conference. It then participated because it had to do so, but merely to waste time and efforts and to dissipate the peace process into many channels and crooked ways that were about to undermine the initial momentum of the peace process. Even after the Shamir government's departure, Israel focused on procedural issues that delayed the peace process. It then began a futile argument about what it called the nature of peace, although the international resolutions define very precisely the nature and elements of peace. They stress the need for Israel to announce its readiness to implement Security Council resolutions, namely, comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

By presenting its working paper to the bilateral talks in Washington, Syria foiled Israel's tampering with the peace process and saved it from collapse, just as it did several times later. But Israel made unnecessary and even unjustified demands and proposals such as the level of representation at the negotiations and putting international resolutions to a referendum, although the world knew that just peace was Syria's strategic option.

The entire world is certain that Syria is eager to make the peace process successful. This has won the international community's appreciation for Syria because it constitutes a key to peace in the region and because such a peace cannot be established without Syria and its concept of peace—a comprehensive peace that restores the Arab's usurped rights and their occupied territories. It is no longer secret that Israel's intransigence and refusal to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories as the only condition are the most important reasons for the stumbling peace process.

Regarding allegations about security arrangements and confidence- building measures, we can say that these security arrangements must be equal and balanced between the two sides. The side that occupies the other side's territories should be the first to take such confidence-building measures. Israel should clearly announce that it agrees to meet the requirements of peace, foremost of which is a total withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the occupied Golan and removing settlements from the Golan, on the understanding that the peace Syria wants cannot be achieved with anything less than that. This Syrian right is supported by the entire international community—a right which represents the necessary implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, as well as the natural basis for achieving the desired peace.

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Afghanistan

'Mojahedin' Seize Government Positions in Logar

LD2310191394 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kharwar area, Logar Province, was cleared of the last nest of the seditious forces [government forces].

An administrative source in Logar Province reported by phone to the correspondent of the Radio Message of Freedom that the Hezb-e Eslami's forces, in the course of a mopping-up operation, seized yesterday morning the centers and positions of the sold-out mercenaries as a result of a successful operation. The mercenary coalition forces received a noticeable loss of life and material.

The report adds that in the course of this operation, all centers and bases of the coalition forces located in Kharpechak Kotal, as the Sherkhel and Matikhel headquarters and all military posts around these places, and Band-e Sard, where the coalition's major headquarters was located, were conquered by the brave mojahedin of the Hezb-e Eslami.

The report adds that a large number of heavy and light weapons with sufficient ammunition, together with two logistic depots of the coalition forces, were seized by the mojahedin.

The report adds: As a result of crushing blows and courageous attacks on the enemy trenches, the mercenary forces totally lost their ability to resist vis-a-vis the Hezb-e Eslami's mojahedin and they [coalition forces] were forced to flee to Darang area of Paktia and other regions.

The mojahedin of the Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan have not taken position in these places and security has been fully restored.

Iran Helps Establish 1-Day Cease-Fire in Kabul

LD2510172094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts, a one-day cease-fire was established in Kabul from 1600 [1230 GMT] today.

Our correspondent reports from the city where the smoke from missile explosions can still be seen.

[Correspondent] The warring factions in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, agreed to a 24-hour cease-fire in all of Kabul city. The cease-fire was enforced from 1600 Kabul time today, simultaneously with heavy rain in the city.

The agreement on the 24-hour cease-fire was reached following talks between Mr. Mir-Mahmud Musavi, special envoy of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Messrs Borhanoddin Rabbani, Golboddin Hekmatyar, and leaders of other warring groups. The cease-fire is due to continue until 1600 tomorrow.

In view of the heavy clashes in the recent days in Kabul and the impact of hundreds of missiles on various parts of the city, the establishment of a temporary cease-fire in Kabul has been welcomed by the citizens of the city. A number of them in interviews with Iranian reporters expressed the hope that the warring factions would reach an agreement on establishing a permanent cease-fire and ending the war and fratricide in Afghanistan.

UN's Mestiri To Hold Talks With Hekmatyar

LD2510143894 Tehran IRNA in English 1314 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct. 25, IRNA—Mahmoud Mestiri, U.N. special envoy on Afghanistan, left here for eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad and for an onward 4-hour drive to the outskirts of Kabul to meet Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, U.N. and Afghan sources told IRNA here on Tuesday.

The meeting will take place in Chahar Asiab, base-camp of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Islami, some 20 km off Afghan capital, the sources said.

Mestiri, former Tunisian foreign minister, last week had two rounds of meetings with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani in Jalalabad besides having negotiations with other Afghan leaders including chief of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolution Movement] Mawlawi Nabi Mohammadi and Akbari of Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party].

Professor Abdol Rasul Sayyaf [leader of Ettehad-e Eslami], however, stayed away of these meetings to protest inclusion of Uzbek warlord General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam in the peace negotiations.

Mestiri started meetings with warring Afghan factions following marathon parleys with a group of prominent Afghan figures in Pakistan's southwestern city of Quetta. The Quetta meet made recommendations regarding the formation of a transition government and convening of Afghan traditional grand assembly to elect the future government and to end the ongoing simmering conflict in war- torn Afghanistan. Mestiri is to discuss these proposals with Hekmatyar after having had lengthy delibrations on these suggestions with Rabbani.

Iran

Government Protests UK Statements on Gulf Islands

LD2510194694 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1900 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Following recent remarks by England's Foreign Ministry about Iran's three islands in the Persian Gulf, our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry

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today handed a note to the English charge d'affaires in Tehran to protest against the position adopted by that country's government.

The note of protest states that in the same way that the Islamic Republic of Iran is interested in collective security and peaceful coexistence in the region, it strongly opposes any interference in the region by foreigners, because they have no objective but to mar regional stability and security.

Dispute Not To Be Handled by The Hague

LD2510213794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman of our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry in an interview with the Central News Unit spoke about Douglas Hurd's [UK secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs] support for referring the issue of Iran's dispute with UAE [United Arab Emirates] to The Hague. The spokesman said: England is more aware than any other country that the Abu Musa Island has been part of the Iranian territory since a very long time ago and has never been transferred to any other country under any agreement whatsoever. Therefore, the whole basis of the dispute is not of a nature to be dealt with in The Hague.

He added: As the colonial occupation of Abu Musa by England was never recognized by Iran, England was forced to withdraw from the island and hand it back to Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran will not put its absolute right of sovereignty to international judgement, just because foreigners demand so.

In this connection, the Foreign Affairs Ministry today informed the English charge d'affaires in Tehran about Iran's protest against that country's stances.

The spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Affairs Ministry then said that any kind of intervention by foreigners trying to resolve the existing misunderstanding between the two countries will lead to nothing but complicating the issue even further.

He added: Just in the same way that we are interested in collective security and peaceful coexistence in the region, we strongly oppose any act which might allow interference by foreigners, who pursue no other objective but to mar regional stability and security, and revive their colonialist policies. We believe the only way to settle the misunderstanding between the two countries is direct negotitations without interference by a third party.

Envoy Addresses UN Committee on Disarmament Issues

LD2510123594 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Oct. 25 IRNA—Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi said here Monday [24 October] that uncontrolled selling of military weapons by the producer states or companies to the third world countries is one of the major threats to the global peace and security.

Addressing the first committee of the 49th session of the U.N. General Assembly, Kharrazi outlined Iran's stances vis-a-vis such issues as disarmament and global security. In the post cold war era, noted the official, the reduction in national defense spendings by most major arms exporting nations had forced the arms industries to seek foreign weapons contracts to replace declining domestic orders.

If the international community fails to take proper action in benefiting from the positive environment produced after the end of the cold war, it will face new areas of contention in a near future, argued Kharrazi.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to transparency in armaments as a confidence building measure which would facilitate the negotiations of disarmament and arms control treaty," he added. The end of the cold war and confrontation between two major blocks, provided the hope that the international community would seize the opportunity and achieve progress in different aspects of disarmament, Kharrazi said adding that the aim of such efforts is centered on the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in addition to reductions of conventional weapons.

The official regretted that actions taken so far on the most important issue of disarmament, namely nuclear disarmament, have not been promising and that no move is seen or heard of any intention by nuclear weapons states towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Stressing that continuation of existence of vast stocks of nuclear weapons with enormous destructive capacity still poses a significant threat to humanity, Kharrazi said, "non-proliferation in itself would not succeed in achieving nuclear disarmament, if it is not coupled with elimination of nuclear weapons."

He said that time is ripe for the conference on disarmament to start negotiation on the destruction of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework at a target date. Kharrazi noted that ensuring a successful review of NPT [non-proliferation treaty] and its possible extension for a fixed period or time, required that the nuclear weapons states ensure the security of non-nuclear weapons states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

The official called for an opportunity to examine the prospects for a comprehensive test ban treaty and a comprehensive verifiable treaty for prohibition of fissile materials.

Stressing the need for examination of all possibilities for joining of non-member states to the NPT, the official

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drew particular attention to the situation in the Middle East and the refusal of Israel to open its nuclear facilities to inspection by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

He said it should be realized that "continuation of discriminatory policies by nuclear weapon states in selective proliferation rather than non-proliferation would pose a major threat to peace in the Middle East and would hamper the success of any disarmament initiative in this region."

Kharrazi referred to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) that Iran is a member and said that since CAC [expansion unknown] employed the most extensive and comprehensive inspection mechanism to verify the non-proliferation of chemical weapons in a non- discriminatory manner, any other unilateral restrictions against the states parties to the convention would be contrary to the letter and spirit of the convention.

The official stressed in conclusion that only by moving towards lower levels of production, there could be hope that transparency in armaments would continue to serve the intended objective.

Official Discusses Gulf Crisis, Syria, Afghanistan

LD2610100694 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Secretary of the High Council of National Security Hasan Ruhani said that Britain, taking advantage of the Persian Gulf crisis, has attempted to lease or sell its Tornado aircraft to the United Arab Emirates in order to have further influence in the region. Interviewed by the English-language daily 'IRAN NEWS', printed Wednesday, Ruhani outlined regional and international issues, present crisis in the Persian Gulf in particular.

Asked to evaluate Iraq's recent military moves which led to a new crisis in the Persian Gulf, Ruhani said that the moves aimed at relieving the pressure Iraq was faced with by transferring it abroad. "At home, the Iraqi government is intensely suffering from economic pressures. Dissatisfaction is also rampant in the Iraqi armed forces. Consequently, Iraq embarked on these military moves to diminish the domestic pressure and influence the U.N. positively," he told the paper.

But, he added, the U.S. took advantage of the situation and strengthened its foothold in the region and imposed its plans on regional countries to safeguard Israel's interests."

Ruhani, also head of the foreign policy commission of the Majlis, said that by creating hubs of crisis in the region, the U.S. was to justify its presence in the Persian Gulf region.

As for the impact of the Syrian-Zionist compromise accord on Tehran-Damascus relations, Ruhani stated "Syria has proven that it will not bow down to imposed peace, at least until the liberation of the Golan Heights." He told the paper that it would be improbable that Syria could reach any agreement with Israel, if it gave this region's strategic importance for the Zionists. "At any rate," said the official, "Iran's relations with Syria are solid."

Referring to developments in Afghanistan, Ruhani told the paper that the prerequisite to have a united, stable and secure Afghanistan was that the "warring sides accept an equitable sharing of power."

He stressed that the two powerful wings of Afghanistan should take it into consideration that peace can be achieved through distribution of power.

Commentary Criticizes Clinton's Tour, Peace Talks

NC2510200994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 Oct 94

[Station commentary: "On the Sidelines of Clinton's Tour of the Middle East"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has left for this region on the first official tour of its kind, taking in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, occupied Palestine, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. Tomorrow he is scheduled to attend the signing ceremony of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

In the occupied Palestinian territories, the Zionist state has taken strict security measures to deal decisively with Palestinian citizens. Zionist police, security, and army forces carried out a large-scale campaign of arrests among supporters and members of Palestinian parties and organizations that reject the capitulatory process.

Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal told journalists yesterday that all the police and security forces are on maximum alert. As part of the usurping Zionist state's acts of repression and heightened security measures against Palestinian citizens, all roads linking the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and other occupied areas have been cut off. Israel asserted it will continue to impose a blockade on these areas indefinitely.

As regards Clinton's tour of the region, Clinton said before leaving for the Middle East that he would ask Yasir 'Arafat to comply with the peace treaty he has signed with Israel. It is obvious that recent events and developments in the occupied Palestinian territories have aroused deep concern in Washington and Tel Aviv.

Returning to the U.S. President's tour of the Middle East, all the signs are that the main goal of the tour is to attempt to impose more pressure on Syria to advance talks on the so-called peace with the Zionist state. The U.S. President expects Syria to show flexible positions during his visit to Damascus.

On the eve of Clinton's tour of the Middle East, official media circles in Damascus noted that Syria has asserted

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its stance that peace is not possible unless Israel pledges to withdraw its forces completely from all the occupied Arab territory.

In view of this, it can be said that the prospects for Clinton guaranteeing that Damascus' main demands can be achieved are weak in light of Clinton's great support for Israel, support exceeding that of former U.S. Presidents.

Here we should mention the Middle East peace process, which began three years ago after the war for oil in the Persian Gulf, which coincided with the collapse of the East and the end of the world's Cold War. This gave the United States and Israel an opportunity to implement a scenario for unequal Arab-Israeli talks in favor of the occupying Zionist state. This scenario has resulted in nothing more than the signing of treaties that humiliate and demean the Arabs.

Clinton's current tour also aims to test and evaluate the outcome of this capitulatory process. Naturally the region's Islamic nations will react to this process in the appropriate way.

Najafi Replaced by Dadbin as Ground Forces Chief

LD2510133694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the death of the late Mr. Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran, head of the Chief of Staff's general office for Security and Intelligence and head of the policy-making commission of the Prisoners of War office, his eminence Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, today issued separate edicts appointing Brigadier General ['Abdollah] Najafi as head of the Chief of Staff's general office for the Security and Intelligence department, and head of the policy-making commission of the Prisoners of War office, and Brigadier General [Ahmad] Dadbin as the ground forces commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces.

The text of the esteemed commander-in-chief's edict concerning Brigadier General 'Abdollah Najafi is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brigadier General 'Abdollah Najafi, head of the Chief of Staff's general office for Security and Intelligence and head of the policy-making commission of the Prisoners of War office. Following the sad death of that sincere, devoted server of the Islamic Republic and earnest, capable, committed struggler, the late Mr. Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran—may God's mercy be upon him—who was himself the founder and head of those two offices—there is a need for a trustworthy, capable, and committed person to take his place. Being familiar with your valuable services, your experiences, devotion, and impressive abilities, I now appoint you as the head of those two offices and as a member of the Intelligence Coordination Council [shura-ye hamahangi-ye ettela'at]. May God grant you success.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i; 3 Aban 1373 [25 October 1994]

The following is the text of the edict appointing Brigadier General Dadbin to his new post: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brigadier General Ahmad Dadbin. Now that Brigadier General 'Abdollah Najafi, who is among the prominent commanders of the Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces, has been appointed to another important position after a period of hard work in promoting the ground forces, I appoint you—in view of your background of struggle, endeavor, and important responsibilities in the armed forces and because of your revolutionary spirit, initiative, and creativity—as the commander of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces. I appreciate the valuable services rendered by Brigadier General Najafi. May you all be successful.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i; 3 Aban 1373

Germany's Oil Imports From Tehran Drop 15%

LD2610085894 Tehran IRNA in English 0751 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Oct. 26, IRNA—Iran has exported 1,381,000 tons of oil worth German Marks 268,674,000 to Germany over the past 8 months. The figure shows a drop of 15.3 percent in Iran's oil exports to that country as compared to the same period last year. Including the 291,000 tons of oil which Iran exported to Germany in August 1994, Iran is among the ten major oil exporters to Germany.

Germany imported over 2,484,000 tons of oil worth German Marks 519,520,000 from Iran last year which shows 176 percent increase over its imports in 1992.

Sri Lanka

Opposition Selects Widow as Presidential Candidate

BK2510170194 Hong Kong AFP in English 1648 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 25 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's opposition Tuesday [25 October] nominated Srima Dissanayake, the widow of slain opposition leader Gamini Dissanayake, as its candidate at next month's presidential election, party sources said.

The opposition United National Party (UNP) decided that former premier Ranil Wickremesinghe, 45, will, however, continue as the parliamentary opposition leader, the sources added.

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"This agreement is only till the election is conducted. Thereafter Mr Wickremesinghe is to take overall charge of the UNP subject to Srima Dissanayake losing the election," the source said.

There was hectic bargaining before the compromise formula could be worked out during a closed-door meeting following Monday's assassination of Dissanayake.

Opposition: Government Involved in Assassination

BK2610072394 Hong Kong AFP in English 0543 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 26 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's main opposition Wednesday [26 October] charged that the assassination of its leader, Gamini Dissanayake, was a conspiracy between the government and the separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

Former parliamentary speaker M. H. Mohamed said Premier Chandrika Kumaratunga gave a free hand to the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) by releasing rebel suspects after initiating peace talks with them.

"This is a conspiracy between the government and the LTTE. It is a shame. They released so many terrorist suspects. It became open ground for the LTTE here," Mohamed said, adding that the government was indirectly responsible.

Dissayanake's United National Party (UNP) has named his widow, Srima, as its new candidate for the November 9 presidential polls.

Mohamed earlier this year had advocated peace talks with the LTTE in a bid to hammer out a solution to the protracted Tiger campaign for an independent homeland for the country's two million-strong Tamil minority.

"Yes. I advocated unconditional talks. I said no cease-fire, no lifting of the embargo (on the LTTE-held northern Jaffna town). But the government has gone beyond all that," he told reporters here.

Kumaratunga had partially lifted an economic blockade on Jaffna following her government's dialogue with the Tigers. The peace process was suspended shortly after Monday's assassination.

Dissanayake's family said that they were convinced that Monday's bomb blast at a campaign rally here was the work of the LTTE who feared he may win the November 9 election and take a hardline stance against the guerrillas.

The slain leader was a close associate of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi who was also killed in a similar bomb blast in south India during a campaign rally in 1991, Dissanayake's brother-in-law Wickreme Weerasuriya said.

He said the defence ministry had two weeks ago warned Dissanayake that there was a threat against his life from an LTTE suicide bomber, but adequate protection was not provided by the state.

Police Unable To 'Positively Identify' Assassins

BK2610112594 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The IGP [Inspector General of Police], Frank de Silva, says that they have not yet been able to positively identify those responsible for the bomb blast which occurred at the UNP [United National Party] rally [killing opposition presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake]. Various opinions have been expressed regarding those responsible. However, these opinions cannot be accepted by the police without positive evidence. The IGP told Roopavahni [Sri Lanka Television] that systematic investigations have been launched into the bomb explosion. He said that various views have been expressed regarding the incident. Some say that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is responsble, while others attribute the assassination to other Tamil groups. There are also those who say that it is a result of an internal [party] crisis. The police has to examine all these views before arriving at a definite conclusion. A conclusion could be reached only after gathering all the relevant evidence. Replying to a question whether he was satisfied with the security provided to the late Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, the IGP said that both Mr. Dissanayake and the defense authorities were satisfied in this regard.

A special CID [criminal Investigation Department] team investing the bomb explosion is confident that a breakthrough is possible within a couple of days. The CID has sought the assistance of the public to identify a woman appearing in two photographs which were taken at the UNP campaign meeting on Sunday midnight. The deputy director of the CID, O.K. Hemchandra, said that the identity of this woman will lead to some clues regarding the alleged suicide bombing.

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